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APRIL 2015

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ELLE PHILIPPINES DECORATION

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ON THE COVER
Cecile Zamora-van Straten's home reflects a modern aesthetic that is imbued with warmth and fun. Photography by Miguel Nacianceno. Art direction by Jonathan Roxas



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EDITOR'S NOTE



THE SUN IS OUT AND SO ARE WE. The crisp days of summer compel us to head out, take advantage of the good weather, and throw ourselves into sparkling bodies of water. On vacation mode, we can be completely carefree—the true luxury—and give the free spirit within us room to play. With summer on our minds, we took the opportunity to publish the gardening feature that has long been on Homes & Market Editor Devi de Veyra's wish list. The Flora Filipina Exposition, a great event that should really be staged more frequently, gave us the perfect starting point for the story. Devi combined the presentations at the expo with images of gardens from some of the homes we've visited in the past three years to produce a lovely report that I hope will inspire you all to enjoy your garden more. No garden yet? Then the story, which starts on page 28, will likely nudge you toward investing more time and thought into planning your own verdant oasis. We all need more breathing spaces, after all.

For our selection of homes this month, meanwhile, we sought out those that show a real appreciation for and dedication to practical and sustainable building and design. As these five homes show, a more considerate and conscious approach yields benefits for residents, community, and environment. It's a win-win-win situation. The joint vision of the architect and the homeowner make these five homes truly living spaces. Begin your green tour on page 49.

Aside from the way a home is built and decorated, it is also of course our own unique points of view and priorities that imbue a home with its individual spirit, that make it a space in which to thrive and fluorish. A shining example of this is the home that graces our cover, fashion designer and blogger Cecile Zamora-van Straten's modern, characterful residence. Cecile is as faithful to her vision in decorating her home as she is in articulating her sartorial language, creating for herself, her husband, and her children a living space that is a joy to come home to.

Have a wonderful, blissful summer!

BECKY KHO
Editor-in-Chief

PHOTOGRAPHY: DAIRY DABILAG (RIGHT); PRESS IMAGE COURTESY OF MARIMEKKO (LEFT.)

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MEET THE CONTRIBUTORS



Vic Guerrero

Photographer

Professional bio I began photographing weddings professionally in 2004, but it was not until 2011 when I decided to do it full-time. Currently, most of my editorial work appears in travel and leisure publications.

His assignment I featured my friend, potter Mia Casal, and her studio in Zambales for The Designer-Maker section.

Tell us about a recent source of creative inspiration The film *Whiplash* really inspired me. I've been trying to actively observe how a certain scene or a person is lit along with the emotions expressed.

What would you pursue if you had the summer off? Traditional Japanese trade crafts especially woodwork techniques where they don't use nails.

Favorite destination for enjoying the great outdoors Pagudpud in December. The cold weather and the sound of waves crashing completely take away any troubles.



Kara Ortiga

Writer and columnist

Professional bio I'm part of the editorial team of *Esquire Philippines* and I also pen a column for *The Philippine Star's* Young Star section. I've also made contributions to other publications like *Preview* and *Chalk*.

Her assignment I wrote about the home of Cecile Zamora-van Straten ("Free spirit"). I enjoyed her off-the-record musings and her advice about how to deal with my 20s based on her experience.

Tell us about a recent source of creative inspiration The music video for Laura Marling's *When Brave Bird Saved*, which is full of symmetry, contemporary dancing, and soulful folk rock music.

Favorite destination for enjoying the great outdoors Casiguran, Aurora, where my grandmother grew up. We saw stretches of white sand beaches, pristine and natural pools formed by the sharp rock formations on the shore, and sprawling mangroves.



Joanna Francisco

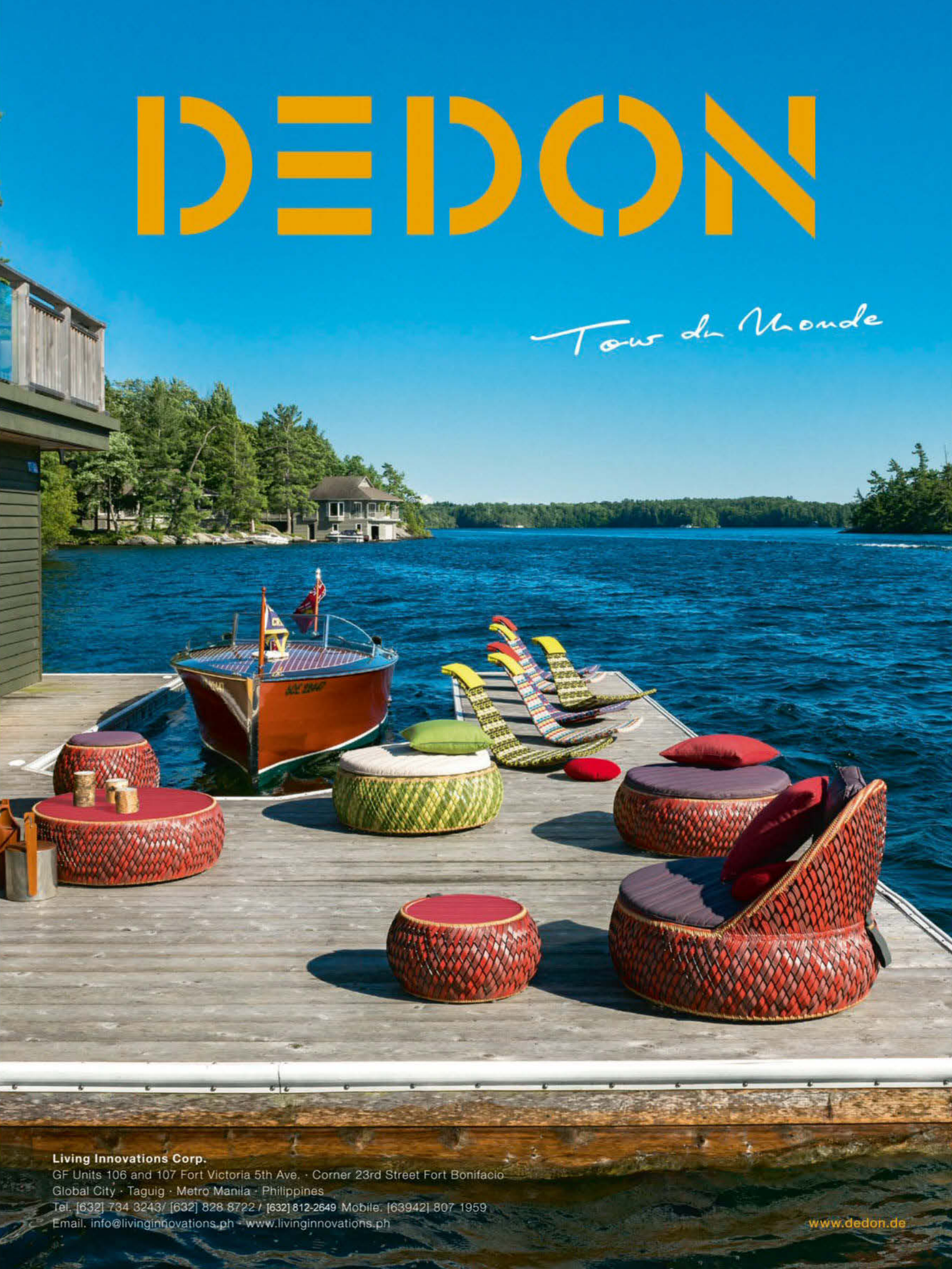
Writer

Professional bio I am a former editor at *Preview* and *Town & Country Philippines* and a former associate editor at *The Philippine Star's* Y-Style section. Currently, I am a communications consultant and freelance writer. Last year, I was based in Hong Kong where I worked on the public relations for the regional campaign of Asia's 50 Best Restaurants Awards.

Her assignment I profiled beautiful and environmentally responsible hotels and resorts for the travel feature "Natural style." My dream life is to just write and travel.

Tell us about a recent source of creative inspiration I've just attended a workshop on mindfulness. It's a skill to be able to find excitement in everyday moments, and it's been a profound experience learning how to do this.

What would you try or pursue if you could have the summer off? Learn French. It's definitely a good excuse to spend a few months in Paris.



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LIFESTYLE

ELLE DECORATION'S ROUNDUP OF PERFECT PURCHASES, STYLING IDEAS, AND FINE EXPERIENCES

DUAL PERSONALITY

Sacha Lakic's modular sofas give you the freedom to configure your own sitting areas. The designer takes flexibility into overdrive with a movable backrest mechanism, which allows for double depth reclining. Depending on your mood, you can create a formal atmosphere or something more laid-back and fun. (roche-bobois.com)

"Parcours" modular sofa, available in low single-seated units, bench units, corner elements, straight back units, chaise lounges, and ottomans, designed by Sacha Lakic for Roche Bobois's Spring/Summer 2015 collection



TEXT: DEVI DE VEYRA. PRESS IMAGE COURTESY OF ROCHE BOBOIS.



TAKE A BOW

Yumi is the Japanese word for bow, and this graceful lamp evokes the demure gesture with its sinewy arch. Designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Shigeru Ban, this is a special piece for collectors and design aficionados.

"Yumi" lamp (black structure in composite material coated with carbon fiber and black lacquered metal base), designed by Shigeru Ban for Fontana Arte, available at FURNitalia



BLOWN AWAY

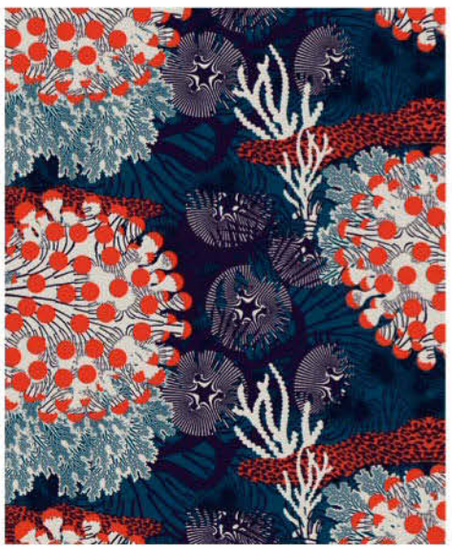
Prague-based glass company Verreum revives the great Czech glass tradition by marrying traditional crafts with present-day technologies and contemporary design language. The "Reverso" tabletop collection of mouth-blown vases and glasses exemplifies the company's skillful practice with its adaptability for modern daily life. Designer Sacha Walckhoff explains that the pieces are meant to be played with, matched, or assembled. A champagne flute when turned upside down can be used as a tumbler, while the vase can be used as a lantern when not filled with flowers. (verreum.com)

Milan beckons ***Top furnishings manufacturers will showcase their wares at the 51st edition of Salone del Mobile (April 14 to 19, salonemilano.it) while art enthusiasts will be delighted with the largest exhibition devoted to Italian maestro Leonardo da Vinci. "Leonardo 1452-1519" opens April 15 at the Palazzo Reale (artpalazzoreale.it).***

ALL ABLOOM

For Spring/Summer 2015, textile designers have culled inspiration from nature, taking on the bright colors of spring blooms and the fluid lines of the sea. The result: Prints and patterns that take your home—and you—to your happy place, whether it's out on the waves or by the seashore.

From left: "Meriheina" textile designed by Kustaa Saksi for Marimekko (marimekko.com). "Glimma" and "Follie" designed by Lotta Jansdotter, available at Townes, Inc. (townes.com.ph)





TEXT: DEVI DE VEYRA AND LEAH NEMIL SAN JOSE (ALL ABLOOM). PRESS IMAGES COURTESY OF FURNITALIA, MARIMEKKO, TOWNES, INC., AND VERREUM.

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ANATOMY OF A CLASSIC

"LC" AT 50

Cassina's LC Collection turns half a century old this year with an eco-conscious focus and updates that honor its designers.

Bold vision In 1965, architects Le Corbusier, Pierre Jeanneret, and Charlotte Perriand collaborated with Cassina to create a furniture line that showcased chrome-plated tubular steel frames that were bent rather than welded at a 90-degree angle. This innovation has influenced what modern furniture is today.

Going green From their first efforts, the three iconic designers were all conscious of the importance of the environment. To fully honor their vision, Cassina now utilizes a less toxic trivalent chromium plating process for all its frames. The tanning process of leathers that go into "LC" pieces will also become wholly organic, and a microfiber textile—made from a combination of polyester and polyurethane—will be used. This soft fabric is made without solvent or metal based dyes, uses 70 percent less water and generates 35 percent less CO_2 in the production process.

Total shift The "LC" line of chairs isn't the only line going chrome-free; the Italian company plans to use it for its entire Cassina collection in the immediate future.



French touch The "LC9" stool will now be produced with an Indian cane seat, the original version designed by Perriand for her apartment in Paris in 1927 and later exhibited in 1929 at the Salon d'Automne.

Old but new Cassina is also updating frame colors after finding the color palette identified by Perriand in 1978. To reflect this discovery, Cassina will replace the burgundy and ochre frames with brown, ivory, and mud options, while the light blue, green, and gray shades will be tweaked as well.

In the Philippines, Cassina is exclusively distributed by FURNitalia. (cassina.com)

(Clockwise, from top left) Cassina's "LC1" chair shines in the outdoors. The "LC9" stool features Indian cane seating. The "LC7" in organic leather. The updated brown hue of the "LC2." The iconic chair's revered designers Perriand, Le Corbusier, and Jeanneret.

TEXT: LEAH NEMIL-SAN JOSE. PRESS IMAGES COURTESY OF CASSINA.

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NATURAL HIGH

This innovative rooftop garden design provides a masterclass in how to create a wilderness in the heart of the city.



Built in 2009, this roof garden in Hackney, London, is underpinned by steel struts that were craned into position to support the combined weight of people, plants, and hefty modern materials on top of a Victorian property owned by a London advertising agency. The £500,000 project is the vision of Adam Shepherd, founder of garden design consultancy The Landscape Architect, who turned a drab, unused roof space into a haven of natural beauty. Filled with wild flowers, a lawn, and a living wall, it forms a spectacular contrast to the concrete cityscape.

Shepherd's signature style—fusing concrete, timber, and planting—creates multiple dimensions within the space. "Each area has a new texture underfoot: lawn, hardwood ipê timber, and granulated rubber in bright orange," he enumerates. "The idea for the rubber came from my children's school playground. It feels amazing to walk on, and we've poured it in such a way that it resembles snow drift piled against the wall."

A shallow pool sits at the heart of the garden and there are suspended seats from which visitors can dip a toe in the water. The submerged glass floor doubles as a skylight, filtering natural light into the interior below. A curved screen adds sculptural height while creating an element of privacy. "The arc over the sitting area is designed to shield much of the garden from view," explains the designer, "to ensure that nearby residents don't feel spied on and to create a sound buffer."

Shepherd also took safety into consideration when planning the key zones. He used planting (mostly walkways of wild flowers) rather than fencing to create a visual barrier that prevents anyone from straying too close to the roof's edge. Meanwhile, the foliage spills over the borders, blurring the boundaries between roof and sky.

The living wall features an array of herbaceous plants, from *Heuchera*, *Phormiums*, and *Fatsia*—which have leaves resembling outstretched hands—to hydrangeas and a plant commonly known as "baby's tears". The latter is a maintenance-free alternative to grass that creates a deep-pile carpet of greenery. The vertical garden is fed and watered by a hydroponic system (hidden pipes that deliver nutrient-enriched water to the plants from a tank), so no soil is required. The final flourish is the garden's concrete-clad fire pit, which takes this aerial oasis from day to night and means that it can be used all year round. (thelandscapearchitect.net)



(Clockwise from top left) A curved wall creates areas of privacy. With its lawn and vertical wall, the roof garden stands in stark contrast to the surrounding cityscape. Bright orange granulated rubber has been piled up against the wall of an adjoining church. Landscape designer Adam Shepherd.

PHOTOGRAPHY: HOWARD SOOLEY. TEXT AND INTERVIEW: JACKIE DALY.



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FIBER REVIVAL

Artist and designer Patis Tesoro knew that the long tradition of producing indigenous barbadense cotton in the Philippines had all but disappeared. Inspired by her own experience of revitalizing piña in the 1990s, she took matters into her own hands and in 2011 started planting the cotton on the land surrounding her Patis Tito Garden Café in Laguna. Soon after, the Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority (PHIL-FIDA) started studying Patis's artisanal cotton to aid in their research on cotton farming in the country. In tribute, they started calling the crop "Patis Tesoro cotton." Patis talks to *ELLE Decoration* about what it takes to revive a floundering industry and leave a lasting legacy in Philippine textile.

ELLE Decoration: What inspired you to plant cotton yourself?
Patis Tesoro: What is lovely about today is that people have realized that they can do things. They don't have to wait for a factory or somebody else to do it. My vision is to help continue our weaving traditions and the industry. I hope that in the next five years we can revive it as artisanal cotton first, and in the next 10 years, to have cotton mills all over the Philippines. Then we can produce our own textiles again. But I also did it for selfish reasons—like with piña, I don't have to worry about my personal supply.
Is cotton the future of the Philippine textile weaving industry?
I would say cotton is the economic future of the textile industry. Cotton is so much easier to plant, harvest, and weave than piña. But for us to sideline piña would not be efficient. Cotton can also help the piña industry because there is still a shortage of piña. Piña is alive—it just needs resuscitation. It could also be used every day if it was woven together with cotton.
Do you think the revivals of piña and cotton will happen in your lifetime?
It can be done if PHIL-FIDA and the Philippine Textile and Research Institute get government support. We'll see!—*Jennifer Baum Lagdameo*

LIVING GREEN

Architect Luisa Daya-Garcia, one of the few certified green architecture consultants in the country, recommends these tools to cool your high-rise home sans the high energy consumption.

Hybrid air-conditioner It's a solar-assisted air-conditioning system with several variations that involve the sun and heat waste as alternative energy sources.
Insulated film for windows The reflective quality lessens heat gain in a room, but does not diminish the light so the space stays bright.
Plants Not only do they liven up any room, they help purify the air. Take it to the next step by making an edible garden. (ldg-architects.com)



Culture calendar *Artist Jaime de Guzman's retrospective show runs up to April 26, 2015, at CCP's Bulwagang Juan Luna (Main Gallery) and Pasilyo Guillermo Tolentino (3/F Hallway Gallery). Titled "Revelations," the exhibit scans de Guzman's broad range of artistic practice, which includes paintings, ceramic works, and drawings.*



GOOD BUSINESS **TACLOBAN PREVAILS**

Making use of debris sourced and bought from Typhoon Haiyan survivors in Tacloban, young designer Bernardo Urbina has fashioned cheese boards from a fallen tree, transformed pieces of a wooden cart into wine racks, and turned scraps from an outrigger boat into the base of a console table. Urbina, a former senior designer for Vito Selma gives 10 percent of the final sale price to that person. He has high hopes that there will be more business models that are committed to upcycling waste material and he gets a chance to spread that message with a Tacloban Prevails exhibit at FuoriSalone 2015's Tortona Around Design event in Milan, Italy, from April 14 to 19. (tacloban prevails.com)

TEXT: JENNIFER BAUM LAGDAMEO AND LEAH NEMIL SAN JOSE (LIVING GREEN). PHOTOGRAPHY: AT MACUJANGAN (PATIS TESORO). PRESS IMAGES COURTESY OF ARCHITECT LUISA DAYA-GARCIA AND TACLOBAN PREVAILS.

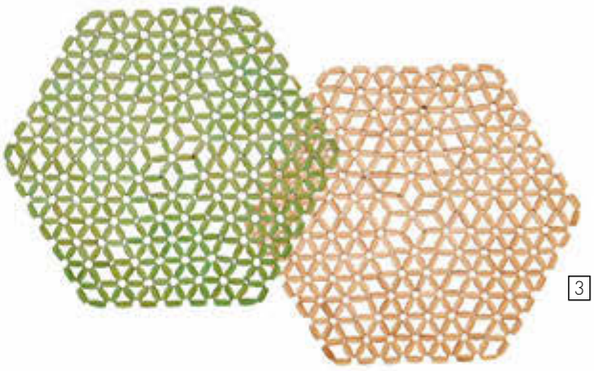
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ALFRESCO SETTING

It's summertime and opportunities for sunny fêtes and breezy barbecues abound. Celebrate with a crisp mix of entertaining must-haves featuring textured surfaces and springtime hues.


6


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7

1 "Jardin d'osier" wallpaper (available in three colors), Hermès, to order from homefabricshermes.dedar.it. 2 "Libations" bar cart, P31,390, Crate & Barrel. 3 Hexagon bamboo placemats in mint and natural, Kim Seybert, available at Blue Carreon Home or to order at kimseybert.com. 4 "Swingrest" two-seater woven lounge, Dedon, to order from Living Innovations. 5 "Bone" napkin ring, part of a set of four, Tom Dixon, to order from MOs Design. 6 Capiz bowls and plate charger, Kultura Filipino. 7 "Live Edge" serving board in teak wood, Sustainably Made, available at Rustan's Makati.

PRODUCTION AND TEXT: MANICA C. TIGLAO. PRESS IMAGES COURTESY OF MANUFACTURERS AND STOCKISTS.

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SPREADING THE TABLE

Make an outstanding impression with subdued tablescapes for this summer's socials.

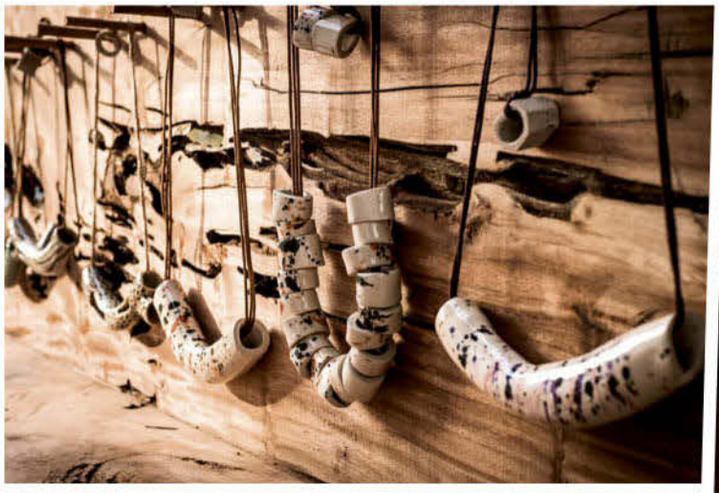
1 Enjoy the outdoors and prepare a scrumptious spread for family and friends. Make it even more special by putting together vessels that highlight the season's vibrant atmosphere. **2** Start the party with good drinks stored in an interesting chunky pitcher called Miguel Wine Carafe, made with recycled glass. **3** Chill beverage bottles in this Luau Beverage Tub made of shiny aluminum. Lightweight, it's best for barbecue parties, picnics and luaus. **4** Designer Jono Pandolfi–whose table settings grace the tables of leading New York restaurants–creates shapes for dinnerware that upgrades the looks of a casual setup. **5** Go all out local and natural with richly grained acacia wood, harvested locally under close supervision of the government's reforestation programs. Each sculptural serving-essential can be used daily or kept for summer specials.

5



Style your own table setting with well-curated items from Crate & Barrel. A home brand hailing from USA, it opened it doors to the Philippines offering modern home décor suited for every customer's discriminating taste. For the summer, hosting outdoor celebrations is made easy with distinctive pieces all at reach under one roof. *Crate & Barrel is available at SM Mega Fashion Hall.*

Crate&Barrel







MIA CASAL CERAMICS

Bucolic Zambales is the ideal place for ceramicist Mia Casal to explore her creative vision and become the artist she has always wanted to be.



In 2002, Mia Casal was working for her family's printing business when she finally discovered what she wanted to do after a visit to Ugu Bigyan's pottery studio in Quezon. "It was the first time I felt spinning clay between my hands," Mia recalls. "The process and the possibilities amazed me. I knew that clay could be transformed, and I wanted to know its boundaries." Enchanted, she began attending workshops taught by renowned Philippine potters Lanelle Abueva and Jon Pettyjohn and practicing the craft in the family garage. In 2006, she headed to New York to study at Greenwich House Pottery. Three years later, she returned home to run Clay Avenue Pottery Studio out of her Quezon City home, where she held pottery classes for four years.

While she enjoyed teaching, Mia missed creating. The opportunity to do so came in late 2013 when her uncle, Louie Abiva, asked if she would consider setting up a studio in his property in San Narciso, Zambales. A wealth of joyful childhood memories of summers spent there made it easy for Mia to say yes, pack up her equipment, and make the move. "My mentor, Nelfa Querubin-Tompkins, one of the first stoneware potters in the country, once told me that the ideal life for a potter is being able to move within one space," says Mia. "In Zambales, my pottery studio is right beside my house. The slowness of provincial living is giving me enough time to plan and create, to have quality time for my pots, myself, and the community."

Inspired by the natural beauty that surrounds her, Mia has been mixing black sand into clay, making ceramic barnacles modeled after those she finds on the beach, and designing teal-colored plates that evoke the color of the sea under a dark gray sky. She is also at work on pieces for her one-woman show later this year. Mia remains a teacher, however, and runs her Clay Avenue Summer Camp in Zambales.

Quoting her mentor once more, Mia says pottery is an expansive art form. "Making pottery is not complicated. Don't think too much. Look around, be inspired by what you see. Create what you want and people will like them."—*Jennifer Baum Lagdameo*

Clay Avenue Summer Camp will be held on the weekends of May 8 to 10 and May 15 to 17, 2015. See clayave.weebly.com for more details.





The nearby mountains in Zambales provide a good source of terra cotta clay for Mia's stoneware pieces. Aside from dinnerware and other functional objects, Mia has recently been developing jewelry and wall art as well.

PHOTOGRAPHY: VIC GUERRERO.



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GARDEN SPECIAL

Lush imagination

Looking to create your own fairy-tale garden? Take cues from hobbyists and designers who have masterfully created dreamy settings fit for both small and large spaces, all recently presented at the Flora Filipina Expo.

Story by **DEVI DE VEYRA** *Photography by* **DAIRY DARILAG**



THE SANTA FE TRAIL

Designer Tata Montilla and Green Spell Farm's Fred Salud recall the rose-colored deserts of New Mexico with a dramatic composition of cactus and succulents. The setup, a posthumous tribute to cacti and succulents collector Atty. Pepito Mercado, won top honors in the recently concluded Flora Filipina Exposition, a horticultural show that is held every three years. "As a plant group, cacti and succulents do not generally need a lot of water nor constant attention. Most of them are sculptural in character and make for unique accents. They look magnificent when assembled in groups or as whole gardens," Tata avers.



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ORIENT EXPRESS

Architect Bimbo Vergara, who is also the vice president of the Cactus and Succulent Society of the Philippines, reimagined the Japanese tea garden for the Flora Filipina show. A stylized opium bed made from Filipino antique panels is the focal point; various cacti dot the space, while hanging tillandsias heighten the theatrical ambience.

ORCHID OBSESSION

Who can resist orchids in bloom? They're great additions to your garden, and you really don't need much space to house a collection.



CACTUS CLUSTERS

You can create adorable accent pieces by choosing unique planters for your greens, such as Bimbo Vergara's sheep ceramic vases with cacti.



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STONE CREATURES
Bimbo Vergara has other hobbies—he is also a member of the Bonsai and Suiseki Alliance of the Philippines—and incorporates them in his garden design. For his tea garden setup, he created a magical atmosphere by playing with scale, and introducing whimsical elements such as the beetles he crafted himself using stone and copper wires.

SPIKED CHARMERS
Overgrown succulents make great accents for indoor and outdoor spaces. Constancio "Tansing" Basis of Constel Nature's Garden heightens the impact by creating defined sections and elevations.



ANGULAR ACCENTS
Designer Mando Cruz breaks the mold with edgy touches: Water from a multi-colored metal sculptural detail cascades down to a pond with toads and turtles. It's a setting that is perfect for the modern home.



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ROCK SOLID

"Each of those pieces passed through my hands," claims Tansing Basis. Looking at the massive stools and tables, it is quite hard to imagine that he handcrafted the pieces from cement himself. Tansing applies a special kind of finish to make the surface resemble natural stones. What's great about Tansing's craft is that you can have customized pieces in your preferred shapes and sizes.



For Kids Only

Bedeck your children's rooms with accessories and fixtures that take their minds to places.



THE PRINCESS SLUMBERS.
Elegantly regal in saccharine pink, a four-poster bed in a playful oval shape is every little princess' dream come true.

Kids n Dream, a company hailing from Korea, features state-of-the-art furniture, bed linens and accessories which include clocks, lamps, toys, pillows, seat covers and fabrics all for the bedroom. The brand's philosophy is to create accessories that complement a child's world. While being fun, quirky and playful, it also assures quality, so moms don't need to worry about their children's safety.

Kids n Dream is located at UG-5 to 11, Westgate Hub, Commerce Ave., cor. Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa, Philippines.
Call 632 255 9690 or 255 8637, visit www.kidsanddream.com or email ilovekidsndream@gmail.com for more information.
kidsndream ilovekidsndream



HOME GROWN

Gardens come in all forms and sizes—the fun is in creating a certain look or atmosphere. Select touches will make a walk in the garden a soothing experience. Get inspired by some tropical gardens *ELLE Decoration Philippines* has visited, together with a charming vignette from Pinto Art Museum in Antipolo.

1 In the Bali, Indonesia, residence of Valentine Willie, quaint sitting areas under the tallest of trees invite lazy conversations, or quiet times for dreaming. **2** Gazebos provide striking focal points, like this one in the Tagaytay property of Max Luna, while accents, such as sculptures, jars, and even moss-covered wood enhance the mood. **3** Landscape designer Bobby Gopiao's second-floor veranda is shielded from the city's sights and sounds by a verdant vertical wall and a natural screen of foliage from his well-tended garden. **4** Artist Popo San Pascual's home-cum-studio is surrounded by a robust sprawl of exotic flora collected through the years. **5** Pinto Art Museum plays host not just to artwork but to a wide variety of plants, including the moss on an old wooden window.



PHOTOGRAPHY: DAIRY DARILAG (MAX LUNA), PAUL DEL ROSARIO (PINTO ART MUSEUM), AND AT MACULANGAN (BOBBY GOPIAO, POPO SAN PASCUAL, VALENTINE WILLIE).


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Exterior elements

Mix modern monochrome furniture with lush green foliage and pops of crimson for sophisticated summer lounging.

Photography by **FEDERICO CEDRONE**



Nature's shapes

Industrial materials, from aluminum to steel, are somehow made pliable to create sinuous lines that put these tables and chairs very much at home in the outdoors. Easy to clean, these pieces also score high on the practicality scale.

From left "Bongo" **low tables** by Andrea Parisio for Meridiani (meridiani.it). "Oblò" **armchair** by Paola Navone for Triconfort, available to order from Casa Bella. "Net" **mesh table** by Benjamin Hubert for Moroso, available to order from Casa Bella. "Rabbit & The Tortoise" white **steel tables** by Studio Juju for Living Divani (livingdivani.it). "Eclipse" **lounge chair** by Christophe Pillet for Emu (me.emu.it). For similar planters, try Cedarhills Garden Center (facebook.com/cedarhillsgardencenter).



Functional art

Clean lines give them a timeless quality, but what sets these designer tables apart from the pack is their construction. From left, the metal-and-concrete rectangular table is hand-crafted so that every piece is unique; tabletops in larger sizes can be fitted on the base of this white table; the black table's top, made from toughened glass, can be extended; and the dynamic shape of the legs on this round table are fabricated entirely from aluminum.

From left "Il Tavolo" **table** by Lapo Ciatti for Opinion Ciatti (opinionciatti.com). For similar **concrete planters**, try Green World Builders (greenworldbuilders.com.ph). "Ikon" **table** by Pioe Tito Toso for Pedrali (pedrali.it). "Grid" **table** by Caronni & Bonanomi for Desalto (desalto.it). "Injoy" aluminium white **dining table** by Eugeni Quitllet for Dedon, available to order from Living Innovations. 100-percent recyclable "Cup" **plant pot** by Naoto Fukasawa for Serralunga, available to order from FURNitalia.







Pliable luxury

A clever combination of materials and techniques create contemporary yet highly functional designs. With ergonomic yet sensuous shapes, these outdoor seats conjure spaces where lounging is the prime occupation, whether that's the terrace, the pool, or the garden.

From left "Raphia" **armchair** by Lucidipevere for Casamania (casamania.it). **Side table** by Antonino Sciortino for Serax (serax.com). "Pop" **chair** by CRS Silat for Il Giardino Di Legno (ilgiardinodilegno.it). "Tosca" low **coffee table** for by Monica Armani for Tribù (tribu.com). "InOut" **chair** by Paola Navone for Gervasoni (gervasoni1882.it). Vintage "Acapulco" **chair**. "Mini Papilio" **dining chair** by Naoto Fukasawa for B&B Italia, available to order from Focus Global Inc. Raven **sculpture** by Benedetta Mori Ubaldini (benedetta.info).





Salvage operation

With an interior created largely from reclaimed materials, designer Lucy Bathurst's East London home mixes industrial elements and antique textiles for a relaxed yet graceful effect.

Story and production by **TESSA PEARSON**
Photography by **JAKE CURTIS**

British textile designer Lucy Bathurst found her calling while working on an extensive restoration project in India. Then a curtain maker, she'd been drafted in to help fix up the interior of a vast, crumbling Indian palace in Hyderabad, and while doing so, she discovered a passion for antique fabrics. Today, Lucy runs Nest Design and collaborates with London-based architects and salvage experts Retrouvius, transforming vintage textiles into bespoke creations. "It's so satisfying to see old or discarded materials used in a contemporary context," she says. "You can take something tired and make it sing again if you reinterpret it in the right way."

This resourceful ethos is reflected in the interior of her 19th-century home in East London, in which industrial salvage is mixed inventively with antique finds and Lucy's textile designs. A utilitarian kitchen made from old pine, copper panels, slate, and reclaimed glazed bricks complements the muted grays and earthy olive tones of the open-plan living and dining area.

Lucy's handmade lace and linen curtains soften the scheme, filtering the light that pours in through the large Victorian sash windows. A slouchy sofa and a flokati rug add warmth and offset the sober, Dutch Master-style moodiness of the dining space. The feel of unpolished elegance continues upstairs, where hand-dyed velvet, restored oriental textiles, midcentury furniture, and atmospheric lighting create an air of bygone glamour. The juxtaposition of humble materials with luxurious touches is key to Lucy's style.

This contrast is seen in the two bathrooms: one has a wall of shimmering blue-gray tiles; the other is clad in teak floorboards and features an Edwardian poultry incubator as a basin unit. Lucy's fascination with clean lines and craftsmanship ties the space together. "I'm not at all precious. My dog walks through the house with muddy paws," she admits. "I aimed for a relaxed kind of beauty—a home that feels informal and inviting." *nestdesign.co.uk*

Homeowner Lucy Bathurst is an expert at breathing new life into salvaged fabrics.
Dining room Midcentury chairs by Kai Kristiansen flank a trestle table dressed in a linen tablecloth and lit from above by a pendant light from Emery & Cie.
Living room (facing page) A picture by Lucy's sister, Bella Bathurst, hangs above a sofa that has been reupholstered in hand-dyed French linen. The chairs are upscaled reproductions of a midcentury design by The French House, and have been covered in hand-dyed velvet by Kirsten Hecktermann. The cushions were designed by Lucy, as was the floor light, which is crafted from a measuring stick.


TIM WALKER PICTURES





Kitchen A new extension to the 19th-century property, this space is clad in flat and bullnose glazed bricks that the homeowner sourced from a reclamation yard. Sunshine streams in through the skylight, showcasing the rich golden tones of the old pine units and shelves that Lucy uses to display ceramics and glassware. The pendant lights were salvaged from factories and the wall lights from ships.



DESIGN DETAILS

Tell us more about the kitchen. It's my homage to the kitchen at Ardkinglas House in Argyll, which was designed by Scottish architect Sir Robert Lorimer and belonged to my father's best friend. I spent a lot of time there as a child; the house is imprinted on my memory.

How did you source the glazed bullnose bricks? They weren't the easiest things to find—it took a lot of persistence. In the end, they came from a reclamation yard in Staffordshire; I found the flat ones on eBay.

Are they suitable for use as a construction material? Yes, you can use them to build a structural wall, or if you're integrating them into an existing structure, you can use them as cladding—but this does eat into the floor space. One way to get round this is to have the bricks cut and used as tiles, but this is a costly and time-consuming process.

How do you calculate how many bricks you need? Measure the size of the wall minus the windows, and divide by the size of the brick.

How did you find flooring that would match throughout the living and dining space? It was simply a matter of trawling reclamation yards. This was much easier than finding the bricks, as there's a huge variety of different floorboard sizes available. The whole floor downstairs was then stripped and finished with soap and lye.

Where did you find the units and shelves? The kitchen and the dining room cupboards are made out of a job lot of pine shelving from Retrouvius. The burnished golden tones of the wood inspired the copper inserts.

And the lighting? The pendants are salvaged Holophane factory lamps, and the wall lights were once used on ships, probably in sailors' bunks.

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The juxtaposition of humble materials with luxurious touches is key to Lucy's style.







LUCY'S SECRET ADDRESS BOOK

Larusi
"Souad Larusi's warehouse is filled with beautiful textiles from around the world. Her eye for genuine vintage pieces is second to none." *109 Bartholomew Road, London NW5 (larusi.com)*

Kirsten Hecktermann
"I admire Kirsten for what she does with textiles more than anyone else I can think of. She transforms and embellishes fabrics in an exquisite way." *(kirstenhecktermann.bigcartel.com)*

Retrouvius
"The people at Retrouvius are masters at reinventing architectural salvage in brilliant, imaginative ways." *1016 Harrow Road, London NW10 (retrouvius.com)*

Bedroom (left and above) Cushions made from Japanese kimono fabric and velvet sit against the headboard, which is upholstered in antique Indonesian textiles—both were designed and created by Lucy. The panels are pieces of antique oriental silk embroidery that Lucy mounted onto bookbinding backing fabric.
Bathroom (top right) A vintage sink with new taps has been placed against the glass screen of a modern walk-in shower, which is decorated with tiles from Emery & Cie. The mirror, hung ingeniously on the shower screen, is made from a piece of antique glasset.

EXPRESS YOURSELF WITH COLORS

Boysen launches four trendy color personalities for Virtuoso, all inspired by social influences on our current lifestyles, to help you redefine your own living spaces.

NATURIST

1 2 3 4 5 6

For many city dwellers, there is a need to bring lush greens, warm wood tones, and vibrant red into living spaces to connect with nature. The lighter hues of marble and silk transform the palette from rustic to urbane, adapted to the contemporary taste of today's society.



KINETIC

1 2 3 4 5 6



This palette is for those living in the fast lane. The intensity of tangerine is balanced by cool grays and blues. Youthful and energetic, the shades are well suited for people moving toward their dreams at a rapid pace.



For those who embrace individualism, who march to their own beat—no rules will define them. Reds, blues, yellows and greens—bold, intense combinations bound only by imagination.

AVANT-GARDE

1 2 3 4 5 6



For those who have an eye for timeless beauty and the subtlety of classic colors. Subdued and self-assured, it is befitting for those who retreat to their homes to calm their senses instead of stimulating them.

1 2 3 4 5 6

PERFECTIONIST

NATURIST 1. VCT14-7704 Thimbleberry 2. VCT14-7801 Rich Peat 3. VCT14-7504 Brunswick Forest 4. VCT14-7505 Granny Orchard 5. VCT14-7201 Turkish Marble 6. VCT14-7202 Raw Silk. **KINETIC** 1. VCT14-7901 Vinyl Night 2. VCT14-7703 Cerise Street 3. VCT14-7706 Radioactive Orange 4. VCT14-7401 Cyber Police 5. VCT14-7602 Kinder Yellow 6. VCT14-7501 Tiffany Morning. **AVANT-GARDE** 1. VCT14-7404 Vintage Fandango 2. VCT14-7403 Indie Ga Ga 3. VCT14-7402 Blue Curacao 4. VCT14-7503 Bermuda Courtyard 5. VCT14-7502 Electric Limerick 6. VCT14-7701 Salsa Night. **PERFECTIONIST** 1. VCT14-7707 Walking On Sunshine 2. VCT14-7702 Cupid's Bow 3. VCT14-7006 Celestial Child 4. VCT14-7705 Sunday's Best 5. VCT14-7601 Gold Charms 6. VCT14-7708 Puffy Tutu. **For technical reasons connected with color reproduction in print and paint manufacturing, these colors may not exactly match actual paint color.*

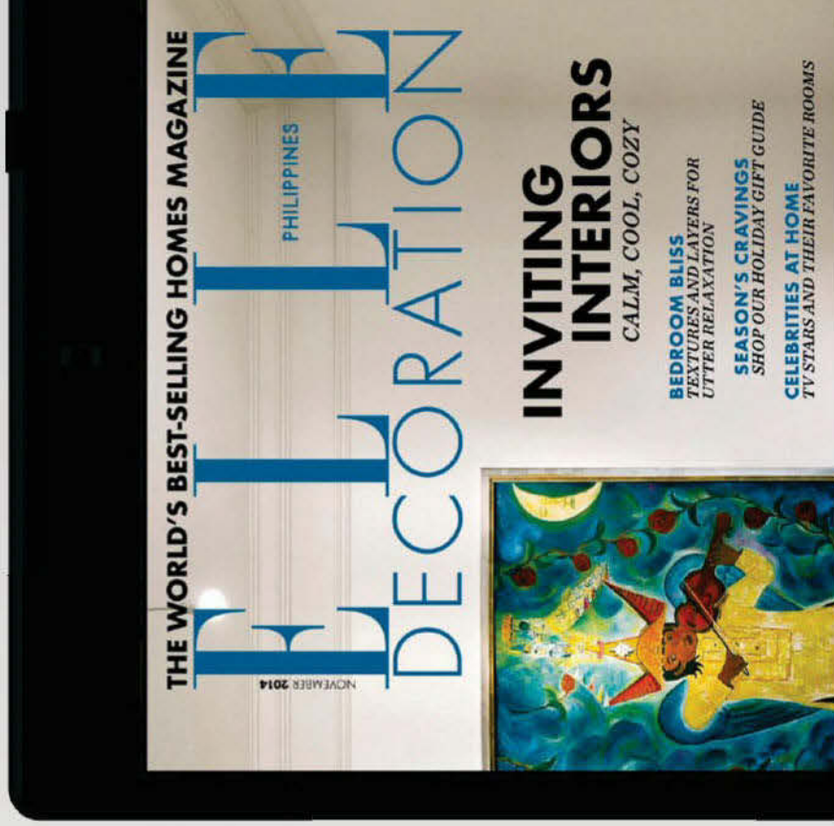
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HOMES

DECORATING AND LIVING INSPIRATION FROM THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL HOMES











The virtues of great design and ecological awareness shine bright in this month's slate of superb homes. In **PASIG** *(p50)*, whimsy and art run freely in Cecile Zamora-van Straten's breezy abode, while in **BATANGAS** *(p60)* craft virtuoso Emily Campos finds escape in a rural shelter, free of the constraints of modern daily life. In **QUEZON CITY** *(p74)*, architect Liza Morales Crespo shines a light on eco-friendly design in an urban property, while in **PARIS** *(p84)* Philippe Starck experiments with the possibilities of green architecture in his weekend escape in the forest. Finally, in the **UK** *(p94)*, architect Gregory Phillips boldly restores an outdated extension of a Victorian chateau into a home that revels in both the past and the present.



Kitchen The free-flowing space between the kitchen and the dining area offers ample room for the gatherings the van Stratens enjoy hosting at home. With the Siematic open kitchen, Cecile's husband Jeroen, a chef, can enjoy the company of guests even while he is busy cooking for them. The painting on the far wall is by Vincent de Pio, part of Cecile's father's collection. ➤



FREE SPIRIT

Fashion designer and blogger Cecile Zamora-van Straten dresses her modern minimalist home in her singular style.

Story by **KARA ORTIGA**
Photography by **MIGUEL NACIANCENO**
Production by **DEVI DE VEYRA**



Living area A small collection of designer chairs take center stage: a classic Gerrit Rietveld "Blue and Red" chair, a wedding gift from Cecile's father-in-law; a woven "Onion" daybed by Tony Gonzales, adorned with canvas throw pillows; a two-seater by Ito Kish; and two Kenneth Cobonpue stools. The portrait on the wall is the work of Dutch artist Karin Vermeer, which Cecile and Jeroen acquired on a trip to Utrecht. (Facing page, bottom) Two wooden carved pigs, a Christmas gift from actress Lucy Torres-Gomez, add an endearing touch to the long counter behind the chairs. **Homeowner** (facing page, top) Cecile, wearing Comme des Garçon, by a portrait she commissioned from Spanish artists Carla Rendon and Jessica Ruiz, collectively known as Crajes. ➤

Cecile Zamora-van Straten's abode shows no traces of the drama her more widely known online handle, Chuvaness, has encountered. "My home is a happy home," she says with contentment. Designed by Ed Calma in 2003, the house is a voguish paradise doused in pristine white and constructed with definitive lines, high ceilings, and glass windows. Far from boring, it bursts to life with Cecile's eclectic taste. "First, you start with what you can afford. We only change things when we see something we like. I'm not a trained interior designer, so a lot of my knowledge in decorating is from Pinterest. I like things that are very special and different," says the Parsons-trained fashion designer, who redecorated the house herself and whose personal style is evident throughout.

With their whimsical bent and splashes of color, the furnishings provide a welcome contrast to the angular bones of the house and its all-white palette. Oddities spring surprises here and there. Two designer gnomes are perched on the long stairway leading up to the van Stratens' second floor receiving area. The black door swings open to a spacious public space generously bathed in sunlight from expansive glass windows. Choice contemporary art hang on the walls while a few Santiago Bose pieces given by Cecile's father line the hallway leading to the private rooms. By the dining table, a commissioned portrait by Spanish artists Carla Rendon and Jessica Ruiz, collectively known as Crajes, shows the homeowner tearful and doe-eyed. There's also a framed picture of Jesus Christ at the end of the hallway: "Oh yes, I'm a big believer of Divine Mercy and I think He protects the house. Everyone who passes here gets blessed."

Friends are most welcome in the van Straten home and the free-flowing layout of the living and dining areas makes the space ideal for gatherings. There's a long wooden dining table surrounded with black Eames chairs that can sit 10—just a few steps away from the recently renovated open kitchen where husband Jeroen, a chef, is sometimes kept busy preparing dishes. In the living area, a motley mix of designer chairs are gathered around a low center table: Kenneth Cobonpue's "Chiquita" stool, the whimsical "Onion" designed daybed by Tony Gonzales, an asymmetric two-seater from Ito Kish, and a sentimental piece, Gerrit Rietveld's iconic "Blue and Red" chair, which was a wedding gift from Cecile's Dutch father-in-law. Behind the daybed is a nod to fashion, the Comme des Garçons chair by Taro Okamoto.

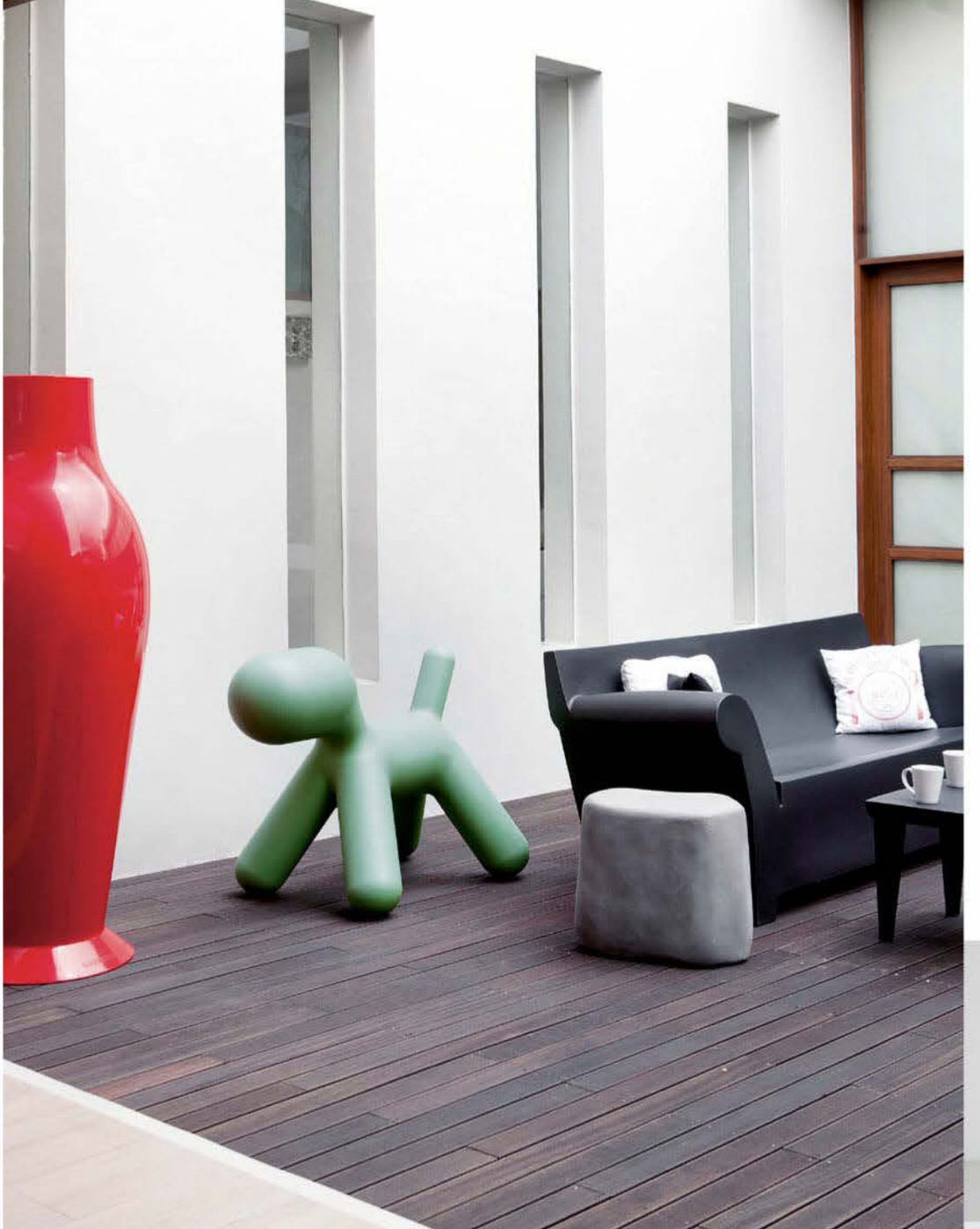
"From a young age, I already wanted to dress differently from others. And my house is the same—I don't want a normal house," asserts Cecile. Up on the roof, the homeowner stages a surreal expression of a personal manifesto: Against a view of the surrounding urban sprawl, Eero Aarnio's polyethylene puppy guards his territory while nearby, a neon sculpture by Nikki Luna states the obvious: "It is what it is."







Living space Large glass doors let sunlight into the home. **Patio** (facing page) Plastic designer pieces furnish Cecile's deck, including a Kartell "Bubble Club" sofa and table designed by Philippe Starck and a Magis "Puppy" designed by Eero Aarnio. The "Misses Flower Power" outsize vase is also by Philippe Starck for Kartell. The faux stone side table is from Crate & Barrel. ➤



WITH THEIR WHIMSICAL BENT AND SPLASHES OF COLOR, THE FURNISHINGS PROVIDE A WELCOME CONTRAST TO THE ANGULAR BONES OF THE HOUSE AND ITS ALL-WHITE PALETTE.



DESIGNED BY ED CALMA IN 2003, THE HOUSE IS A VOGUISH PARADISE DOUSED IN PRISTINE WHITE AND CONSTRUCTED WITH DEFINITIVE LINES, HIGH CEILINGS, AND GLASS WINDOWS.



Dining area Ten Eames molded chairs from Herman Miller surround a custom-made dining table from Triboa Bay Living. The long table sits right in front of the expansive glass window, which overlooks the street along the front of the house. A few steps away, Cecile sets a quirky mini dining area, with stools purchased from Zara Home in Japan. ➤


PHOSPHATE



"FROM A YOUNG AGE, I ALREADY WANTED TO DRESS DIFFERENTLY FROM OTHERS. AND MY HOUSE IS THE SAME–I DON'T WANT A NORMAL HOUSE." UP ON THE ROOF, THE HOMEOWNER STAGES A SURREAL EXPRESSION OF A PERSONAL MANIFESTO.



Rooftop garden The eco-garden on the rooftop was the suggestion of a reader of Cecile's blog. "When we put the grass there, it cooled the house dramatically," says Cecile. "It was amazing." The set of outdoor chairs and table is from Locsin International. ➤

UP IN THE AIR

A dollmaker builds a refuge in the mountains that recalls the happiness of her childhood.

Story by **CLIFFORD OLANDAY** *Photography by* **PATRICK MARTIRES**
Production by **DEVI DE VEYRA**





Highlands (facing page) Emily Campos likes to leave her Batangas retreat as natural as possible. At the veranda, the roof is a canopy of flowering thunbergias where the vines grow on a trellis made out of old wood.
Property The house sits on a long and narrow 4,800-hectare parcel of land. Except for adding a screen of bamboos for privacy, Emily has left the tree-filled property as it is. "I haven't really gone down all the way. It's deep." ➤



Patio Like the humble huts of Emily's childhood, the 40-square-meter structure has the most basic of spaces—a bedroom, a bathroom, a combined living and dining room, and a kitchenette. But the patio is the most luxurious, thanks to the view. Rain can come through the canopy so a wrought iron sofa set was chosen.



"WHEN IT RAINS, THE PATIO GETS WET BUT I DON'T WANT TO PUT A ROOF. I LOVE THAT NATURAL LOOK."







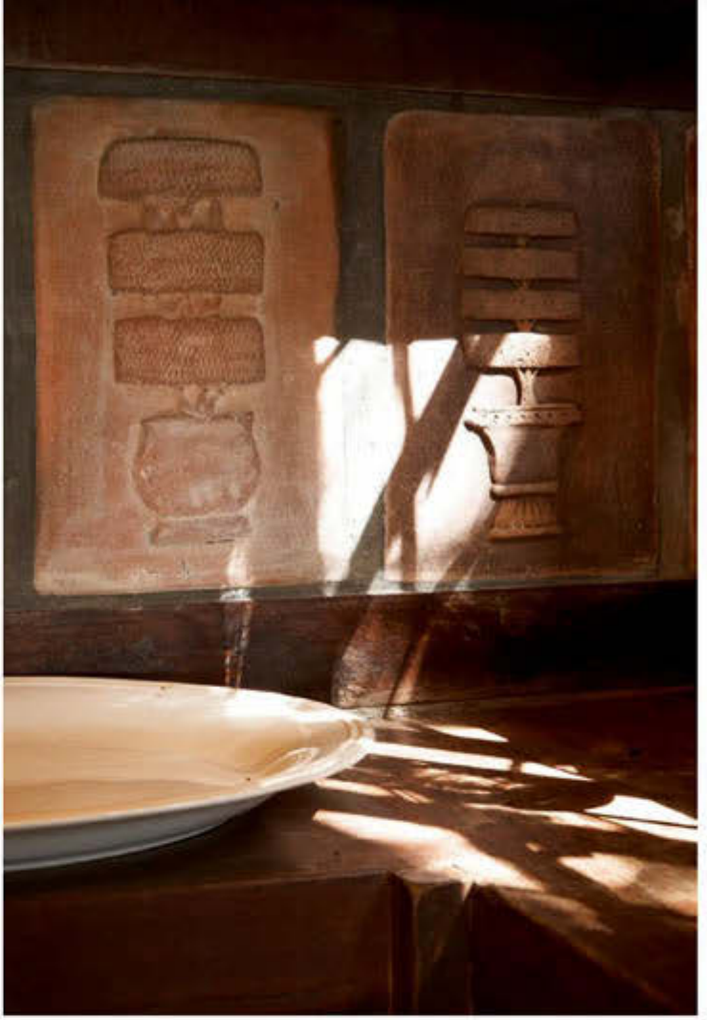


Bahay kubo (above, left) Found 50 steps below the house, the makeshift hut is but a simple wooden daybed with a trellis roof.
Kitchenette (above, right) A small structure beside the main cottage houses a small kitchen and also serves as a storage room.
Living room (right) The knock-down Ifugao *papag* made of blackened wood doubles as an extra bed for guests. Behind it is a wall of adobe. ➤









Outdoor sitting area (facing page, leftmost) The white chairs and glass-topped side table are finds from flea markets, one of several sets that can be found in the Talisay property.
Living area (facing page, left) The columns leading to the bedroom were rescued from an empty lot in Alabang, which Emily did not leave until the moving truck came.
"I thought it was from Indonesia. But when we checked, it's *balayong*."
Kitchenette (right) The backsplash is adorned with rare large-format terra cotta tiles that Emily found on a rainy day in Pampanga. "They were using it as stepping stones," she remembers. "When I saw them, I thought, 'Oh, this is beautiful. This is not common.'" ➤

When World War II broke out, Emily Campos and her family fled to the mountains of Negros. She was but a girl of four years and blissfully unaware of the perils of a world that was just starting to unfold before her. She remembered the nipa huts that became her playground, the bamboo toys of *kutsarita*, and the water that trickled down from an upland stream into their *kubo* through pipes of *kawayan*. And even though she lived a transient life, moving from one hut to another, Emily considered those years in the mountains her happiest. When the war ended, she was eight years old. Life moved forward, and those years of fearlessness dissolved into the distance of memory.

Emily, who makes Olaf Hajek-inspired art dolls and has a workshop in Silang, Cavite, never really forgot though. Several decades later, she came upon an almost half-a-hectare property for sale in Talisay, Batangas, while visiting a friend and found herself imagining a life there. So she purchased the sloping, tree-covered land to build a retreat. (Her city residence in Alabang was featured in the March 2014 issue of *ELLE Decoration Philippines*.) Only now does she realize, living in her mountain home, that she was invoking her childhood. "I guess I wanted to go back," Emily reflects. The house certainly recalls the nipa huts that she grew up in. It has just enough space for a solitary stay (though once, she was able to room five guests in the 40-square-meter home) and has been purposely designed to be without electricity or water—just like the *bahay kubo*.

A life unplugged is not as difficult as it seems. Water is delivered with just a phone call. As for light, there are candles everywhere, some of which are placed inside iron lamps hung on a wooden ladder. When darkness arrives, in the infinite outdoors that is just outside her home, the twin glittering of stars and fireflies also shines upon her.

The unconventional house carries a bohemian air, a style informed by the huts that Emily grew up in. "There is nothing fine in this house," she points out. In place of a ceiling, there is a cover of *katsa* that, she says, has been painted by Mother Nature herself, who has lent the plain cloth all imaginable colors of moss. Much of the furniture was rescued, too, including two *balayong* columns found in an empty lot in Alabang and a wobbly *molave* dining table from Tali.

Some 50 steps down from the house, this grand lady who has led several lives, has built an even more private sanctuary, a *bahay kubo*: "Just four *poste* with a *papag* and a trellis [as its ceiling]. And inside the *kubo*, I have a mattress, pillows, and a blanket." Whenever she has guests, Emily leads them down the meandering steps and there, under the cool shadow of nature, they have coffee and dessert. Or they just stay still. "This is the place to do nothing," she declares. And what could be a happier time than that?



"THERE IS NOTHING TRADITIONAL ABOUT ME OR MY DESIGNS. I DON'T DO CONVENTIONAL PIECES. I AM LITTLE BIT MORE BOHO."



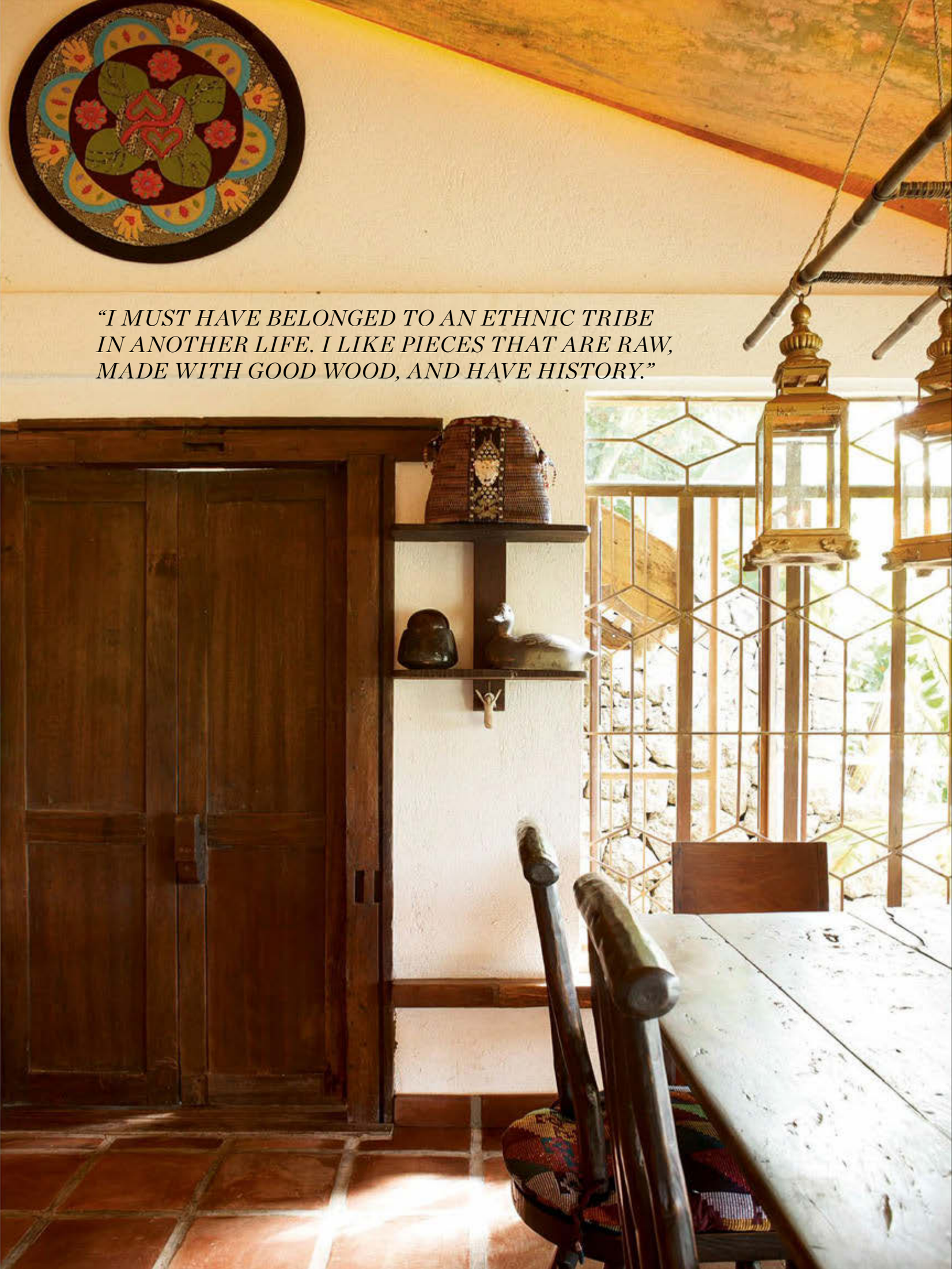
Bathroom (facing page) The fixtures have a homespun quality. Here, a *kawali* is repurposed as a sink. Its two handles are the perfect spots for hand towels.
Interior "I think I must have belonged to an ethnic group in my other life. You can see it here; I do not like fine furniture," says Emily, pointing to the rustic Filipino furniture of her home. The wisdom of time has given the homeowner the elusive skill of making found pieces work together. ➤



Kitchenette The base of a large clay pot has been turned into a washbowl. With no electricity, food (save for meat) and drinks are stored in an old-school icebox. Mirroring a childhood memory from the mountains where water came from an upland stream, water is delivered to a cistern on top of the property, which then flows to the house located some 50 steps down the road. ➤



"WHEN I AM HERE AT NIGHT, I CAN STILL SEE THE FIREFLIES. THERE IS NO LIGHT SO YOU CAN SEE THEM."



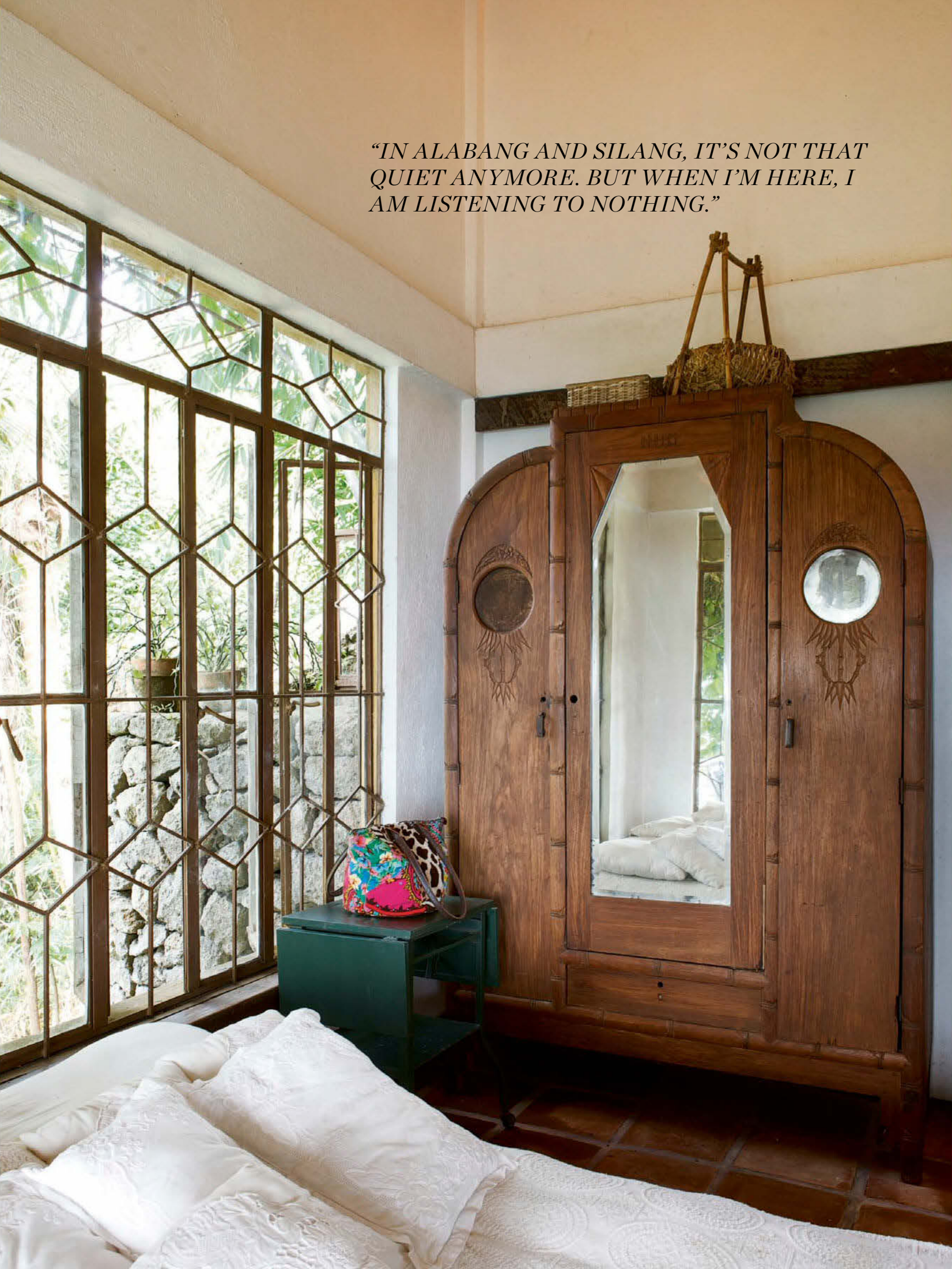
"I MUST HAVE BELONGED TO AN ETHNIC TRIBE IN ANOTHER LIFE. I LIKE PIECES THAT ARE RAW, MADE WITH GOOD WOOD, AND HAVE HISTORY."



Dining room The dining table was found in Tali. Its previous owner thought he was driving a hard bargain, asking P400 for the weathered *molave* table. Emily snapped it up on the spot. "It's cracked on one side and there's a hole on the other side, but it's beautiful," she remarks. Washed in black, the pinewood chairs from Baguio have an ethnic feel. Emily fashioned a candle chandelier out of a ladder from Baguio and iron lamps. ➤



Bedroom Underneath a cloud of covers and pillows is a bamboo *papag*. In the corner is one of the patchworks of the bags that Emily manufactures in Silang, Cavite. Though built as a personal retreat, the home has played host to as many as five people. "And the next morning, when we woke up, there was fog inside the house," she recalls of that visit. "It was really a wonderful time." ■



"IN ALABANG AND SILANG, IT'S NOT THAT QUIET ANYMORE. BUT WHEN I'M HERE, I AM LISTENING TO NOTHING."



A GREEN DISPOSITION

Architect Liza Morales Crespo balances aesthetic intent with an environmentalist's outlook in creating a serene urban cocoon.

Production and story by **DEVI DE VEYRA** *Photography by* **TOTO LABRADOR**



Entrance (facing page) A wall of greens serves as a privacy screen and revitalizes the air. It also gives the entryway a sense of approach and anticipation before revealing the house interiors. (This page) The homeowner decorated the house herself and followed the architect's lead, adding minimal ornaments and choosing modern furnishings in neutral colors. The painting is by Angelito Antonio and is a gift from the mother of the lady of the house. ➤



The client simply wanted a house that would stand the test of time. Armed with an architecture and urban planning degree from Columbia University and certification from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program, Liza Morales Crespo broadened the mandate and created a classic structure for this home in Quezon City that bears the hallmarks of sustainable design. Here, Liza shares a few tips on reducing one's ecological footprint when it comes to planning one's home.

For me, minimalism is not just a design aesthetic but also a commitment to going green. I'm a big fan of Japanese architects Kenzo Tange, Tadao Ando, and Shigeru Ban. They have distinct architectural styles but there is something so pure in their designs. Not much embellishment or unnecessary ornamentation is required. That is something I aspire for when I create sustainable buildings and homes. The less materials used, the less carbon footprint—thus, the better it is for the environment.

Orientation is critical for tropical architecture. We only have two seasons to deal with—wet and dry—as opposed to the northern hemisphere where they need the heat during the winter and keep things cold during the summer. We can use that to our advantage. In this , we use one kind of intervention, usually cooling, that applies throughout the whole year. We also incorporated louvers on the façade for additional shading in the south and western exposures. These will eventually lower the cooling load for the house as it minimizes heat infiltration.

The green wall in the foyer acts as a privacy screen so there is that sense of anticipation before the grand reveal. It also filters the air and blocks the afternoon sun, cooling the space around it.

Light-colored materials help mitigate the urban heat island effect. Everything we used [for the house] is pretty much lighter in color—from the wood and stone to the paint and roof. Dark colors absorb more heat and raise the surrounding area's temperature levels, which is one of the causes of the urban heat island effect. We were also careful with detailing the eaves to ensure that the heat trapped within the ceiling cavity has a means of being vented out.

For a structure to be sustainable, we must review the life cycle cost. It is not enough to consider the initial building costs such as the materials to be used; it is also necessary to study the structure's impact on the environment over its entire life. For example, air quality poses not just health issues for the occupants of a house, but also creates a maintenance concern for the façade. Light-colored walls would require repainting over time due to the soot and dust, so we used materials that can be maintained with regular cleaning, such as non-porous stones.

For the outdoor areas, we used permeable pavers and they were lightly colored as well for less heat absorption. The pavers are porous, and they were laid out with small gaps in between to allow for rainwater to be absorbed, thus replenishing ground water. This is also important since the pavers lessen surface run-offs, easing the burden on the municipal or village storm water system.

Architect (inset) Liza Crespo is the design director of her architecture company, Liza Crespo Ecotecture (lizacrespo.com). She also distributes eco-friendly products through Philippine Geogreen (philgeogreen.com), a company she runs with her husband, Robert Crespo.
Living area (facing page) Much of the materials was sourced locally, such as the bamboo and stone floorings. Low-slung furniture keep the mood laid-back, while touches of color provide accent. The yellow "Bloom" chair is by Kenneth Cobonpue. The metal sculpture atop a side table is by Arturo Luz while the trio of dancing girls was a gift from the homeowner's mother. ➤



"ORIENTATION IS CRITICAL FOR TROPICAL ARCHITECTURE. WE ONLY HAVE TO DEAL WITH TWO SEASONS–WET AND DRY. WE CAN USE THAT TO OUR ADVANTAGE."





"FOR ME, MINIMALISM IS NOT JUST A DESIGN AESTHETIC BUT ALSO A COMMITMENT TO GOING GREEN."

Dining room Paintings by Arturo Luz hang on the wall. Kenneth Cobonpue's "Little People" chandelier brings a playful touch. The table and chairs were made by the homeowner's father, a carpentry hobbyist. ➤

TV room The trio of little girls is a recurring theme all around the house and alludes to the homeowners' three daughters; the paintings are by Jomar Delubio. The colorful gecko was purchased during a trip to Barcelona. The "Wassily" chair by Marcel Breuer is another article from the homeowner's mother, a piece that's been with the family since she was a young girl.
Stairway (facing page) The framed piece is a tablecloth from Marimekko. The stairs lead to the private quarters. ➤





"THE LESS MATERIALS USED, THE LESS CARBON FOOTPRINT–THUS, THE BETTER IT IS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT."



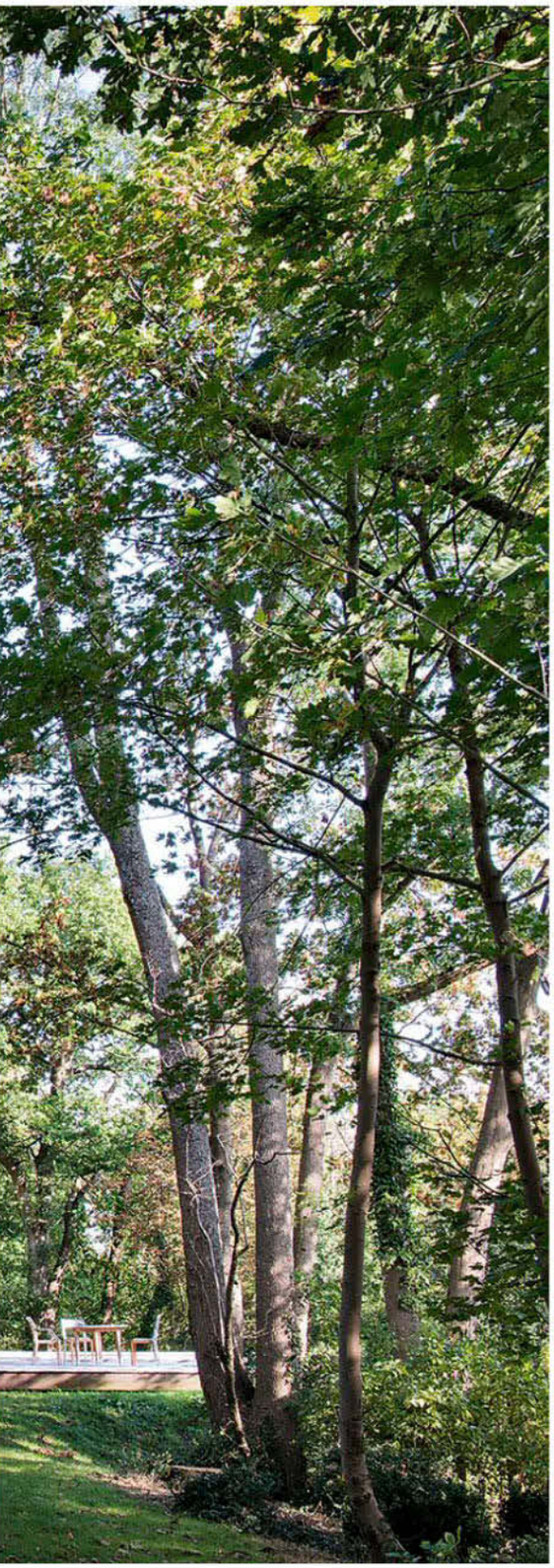
Hallway (facing page) Blinds shield the house from the heat of the sun while a Big Ass ceiling fan helps circulate air.
Daughter's bedroom The homeowners decided to give their three daughters free reign in decorating their rooms, revealing their different personal styles. The bed was also made by the daughter's grandfather. ■

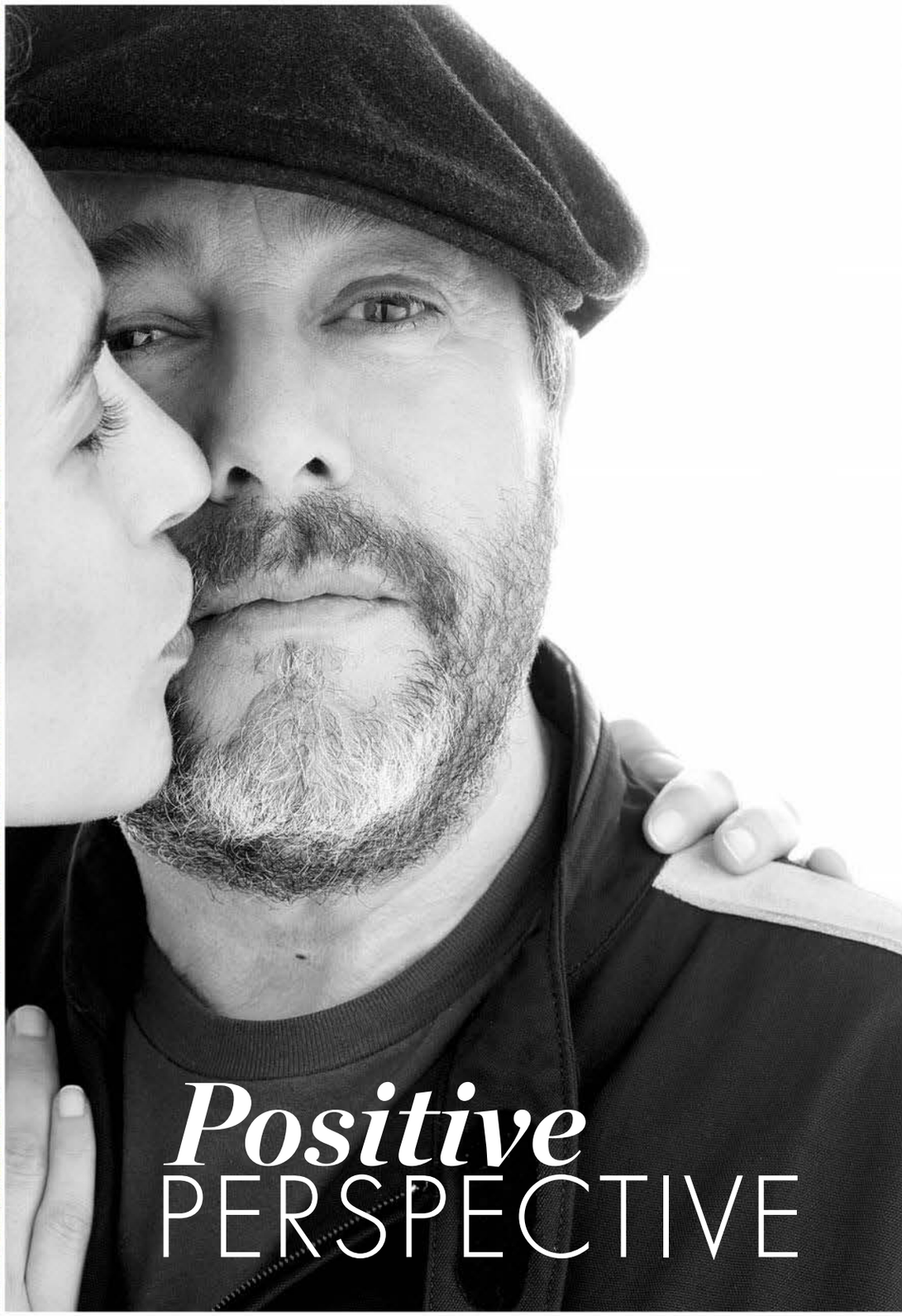


"IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO CONSIDER THE INITIAL BUILDING COSTS; IT IS ALSO NECESSARY TO STUDY THE STRUCTURE'S IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT OVER ITS ENTIRE LIFE."



Exterior For six years, this has been Philippe Starck's weekend home and has served as a laboratory for him and prefab specialist Riko to test their eco-technology. On the roof cornice are photovoltaic panels and mini wind turbines that help the house produce up to 50 percent more energy than it consumes. On the lawn is the "Elephant" chair by Bernard Rancillac. **Designer** Philippe Starck with his wife and muse, Jasmine. ➤





Positive PERSPECTIVE

French designer Philippe Starck shows ELLE Decoration around his weekend country home, the prototype of a prefabricated house that introduces his vision of the eco-conscious house of the future.

Story by **LEAH NEMIL-SAN JOSE** *Photography by* **NICOLAS MATHÉUS** *and* **JEAN-BAPTISTE MONDINO** *(portrait) Styling by* **MARIE CLAIRE BLANCKAERT**



Pool A hydraulic platform system at the bottom of the pool allows it to have different levels of depth. The deck furniture is by Starck from his collection "RobinWood" for Sutherland (sutherlandfurniture.com). ➤

Prefabricated housing does not have a reputation for being sophisticated and inviting, but celebrated French designer Philippe Starck, along with Riko, a Slovenian company that specializes in prefab wooden housing, is keen to change that with the Prefabricated Accessible Technological Homes (P.A.T.H.) endeavor.

The P.A.T.H. prototype, set on a hill in the small town of Montfort-l'Amaury in Paris, currently serves as Starck's weekend home. Its architecture is straightforward and sensible, giving full emphasis to the link between indoor and outdoor areas. Completely clad in floor-to-ceiling glass panels, the house offers its residents pristine views of the surrounding woods from practically every angle inside the house. "With P.A.T.H., we wanted to reach out to the largest possible public," the designer-homeowner says. "The architectural possibilities are very broad and flexible." There is nothing simple, however, about what makes this house hum. Starck and Riko did not just design and build a prefab; they created a living solution that pays respect to the environment, from manufacturing to completion. The shorter construction time with certified eco-friendly materials means lower consumption of water and energy during fabrication and on-site assembly. Cutting-edge technology—including a solar panel system that Starck hides in the cornice on the roof, high-tech insulation, wind turbines, and rainwater-saving features—lets the homeowner harness energy from renewable resources. Together, these components make it possible for this house to produce more energy than it consumes.

But the true luxurious nature of P.A.T.H. is most evident in the way it affords clients the freedom to design their own living spaces. Using a digital tool, interested buyers can choose from among 34 Starck-designed floor plans, which range in size from 140 square meters to 350 square meters, with anywhere from one to eight rooms. They can select from three types of structures—one with an all-glass exterior like that of the prototype, a full wooden-made structure, and a combination of wooden walls and glass surfaces—and mix and match top-range exterior and interior finishes, fixtures, and equipment that have all been handpicked by Starck.

Today, ideas for ecologically sound design are finding their way into more homes, but P.A.T.H. certainly ups the ante. Its impact is enormous as an example of seamless integration of advanced technology, efficient economics, and polished aesthetics. More importantly, it's a house that adapts and responds to the people who live within its walls. As a house of the (near) future, it's a trail that hopefully many will follow. *starckwithriko.com*



Dining room From the outside to the inside, the P.A.T.H. house is a salute to the power and warmth of wood. The steel beams and columns are only visible from the inside. Starck's "Prince John Rocker" rocking chairs are in teak and aluminum, also for Sutherland. On the couch are Jules Pansu cushions. ➤

"TECHNOLOGY MUST BE INTEGRATED IN A SIMPLE AND NATURAL WAY. IT MUST BECOME INVISIBLE FOR THE USERS."



ITS ARCHITECTURE IS STRAIGHTFORWARD AND SENSIBLE, GIVING FULL EMPHASIS TO THE LINK BETWEEN INDOOR AND OUTDOOR AREAS.



Living space Open to nature through a bay glass on wheels, this sitting area is organized around a set of tables, chairs, and stools. On both sides are Scandinavian mottled chairs, throw pillows by Jules Pansu, and a carpet from Ikea. ➤



Breakfast nook The curved shape of the antique sofa creates a casual dining corner near the kitchen. The triple glazed glass façade limits heat loss. ➤



"WE WANTED TO CREATE A STYLE THAT WOULD STILL BE ACCEPTABLE AND APPRECIATED IN 50, 100, EVEN 200 YEARS."



Bedroom A view of the Montfort-l'Amaury forest and plush furnishing make this the coziest room in the house. Cleverly hidden behind the headboard is a folding shelf that also works as an office desk, while a simple curtain tug reveals the wardrobe area. The stove is a high-performance heating appliance that can provide a heating period of up to three days and is 79 percent more energy-efficient than a basic chimney. The bed is by Starck for Cassina. The "Tre Pezzi Wool" armchair is by Franco Albini, also for Cassina.
Bathroom Mirrors help expand the space further and continue to provide a view of the outside. Wind turbine energy is used for heating and air-conditioning. ■





IT'S A HOUSE THAT ADAPTS AND RESPONDS TO THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE WITHIN ITS WALLS.



Exterior The estate's bucolic country setting and historic Victorian architecture belie its sleek, contemporary aspects. (Facing page) Composed of mostly glass and steel, the extension had to be reworked from the ground up in order to create a space that was both modern and complementary to the property's original structure. ➤





A SPIRITED RESTORATION

Architect Gregory Phillips updates a gorgeous Victorian home by way of an inspired, modern expansion.

Story by **CHINO L. CRUZ** *Photography by* **MEL YATES**



Living area The L-shaped "Nicoletti" sofa by Mac and Mac Interiors and the smaller sofa from BoConcept play second fiddle to the magnificent view outside. According to the architect, the vista was essential to his design. "If you have a room with a view, you should be able to enjoy it," he says.
Architect (inset) Lead designer and architect Gregory Phillips. ➤





When architect Gregory Phillips and his team were tasked to restore a home in the British countryside, the project seemed remarkably romantic, almost poetic. The property is quintessentially British, a stately Victorian house set upon an idyllic sprawl of green meadows and lush woodlands. The architect's brief was to rework the property, which includes an outdated extension built in the 1980s, by introducing modern style while maintaining the stature of the estate. The result is a glowing study of restraint and composition, its tasteful interiors woven effortlessly and respectfully into the original architecture. The extension, once a dated, awkward alteration, is now a muted and elegant construction of glass and steel. The homeowners now use both parts of the house equally. It is a family home that is neither traditional nor contemporary, but a wonderful fusion of the two. Here, Gregory talks to *ELLE Decoration Philippines* about the pleasures and challenges of working with historic architecture.

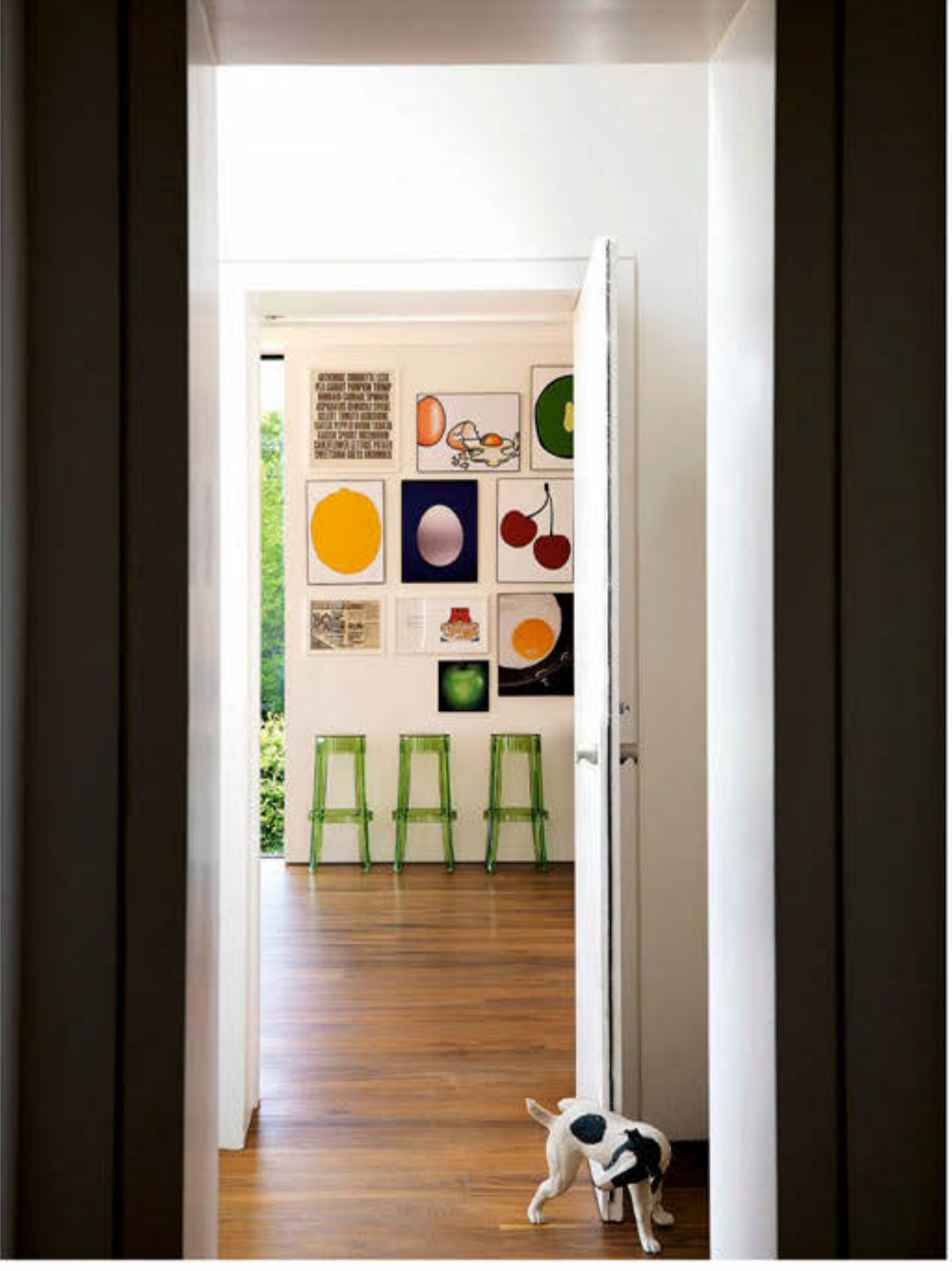
What was your overall vision for the project? How did you meld your vision with that of the homeowner?
The client's vision for this project was for a bright, open-plan living space. Our client invents computer games, so we shared an interest in making aspects of the project fun. We incorporated an indoor swimming pool and other areas into the scheme.

Tell us about your personal aesthetic. How did you apply it to the space?
All my projects are designed with some fundamental ideas, namely that they should be totally practical and the relationship between spaces must work and must be elegant. In this project, the architectural language of the new extension contrasts with and complements the traditional form of the original Victorian house. This stunning renovation clarifies the existing property, updating it for modern living. I love the view of the landscape from the balcony above the swimming pool and I also enjoy how the pool opens to the terrace level.

Subtlety was a key element of the build. How were you able to seamlessly integrate modern design with the original character of the property?
For the interior, the space flows beautifully, thanks to the walnut flooring laid throughout and the white-painted walls, which unify the rooms. The furnishing is a mixture of traditional and modern pieces, including a table from the 1840s that is the same age as the house. For the exterior, the glazed link between the volumes and the height was carefully matched to existing horizontal projections, differentiating old and new and ensuring an elegant, understated transition.

Did the new extension present any design challenges?
The main house lacked the large spaces for 21st-century living. To overcome this, the dining room was elegantly extended, which provided the opportunity to incorporate a set of new French doors and shutters to open out onto a brand new balcony overhanging a new terraced garden.

Were there any changes made for higher energy efficiency?
The environmental performance of the existing house had been improved where possible, working within the restrictions of its Grade-II listed status. The loft was extensively insulated, as were any new floors and, although the original sash windows had to be kept single-glazed, they have been refurbished to reduce heat loss. *gregoryphillips.com*





"THE CLIENT'S VISION FOR THIS PROJECT WAS FOR A BRIGHT, OPEN-PLAN LIVING SPACE. WE BOTH WANTED TO RETAIN THE QUALITIES OF THE EXISTING BUILDING AND TO CREATE A MODERN ADDITION."



Kitchen The homeowner, who is a video game designer, requested that the space feature a few playful accents, and Gregory was more than happy to oblige. The homeowner's own pop-art-inspired prints hang on the walls above a row of chartreuse "Green Ghost" bar stools by Philippe Starck for Kartell. The Boffi "LT" kitchen system, designed by Piero Lissoni, keeps the space efficient.➤



Living room Given the need to create a space that was subtle, fluid and modern, Gregory created this open-plan living space, which extends even further into the bright British countryside through the surrounding floor-to-ceiling glass windows. (Facing page) The hallway features a gallery of personal photographs. ➤





"I LOVE WORKING ON HOUSES THAT ARE DESIGNED TO HAVE A FANTASTIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE INTERIOR AND THE EXTERIOR. IF YOU HAVE A ROOM WITH A VIEW, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO ENJOY IT."





"ALL MY PROJECTS ARE DESIGNED WITH SOME FUNDAMENTAL IDEAS, NAMELY THAT THEY SHOULD BE TOTALLY PRACTICAL AND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SPACES MUST WORK AND MUST BE ELEGANT."



Living room Original architectural flourishes such as the molded fireplace and a few period-inspired pieces such as the "Scala" black velvet daybed from Maisons du Monde pay homage to the building's Victorian heritage. (Facing page) The sleek, white "Orbital" seating by Christophe Pillet for Modus stay true to Gregory's subtle, contemporary vision for the home. ➤



Dining room The plush leather seating by the fireplace, the antique grandfather clock, and the rich walnut flooring add a sense of history to the space, while the "Victoria Ghost" and "Mr. Impossible" dining chairs designed by Philippe Starck for Kartell give it a glow of modernity. (Facing page) The round mirror helps extend the long dining hall even further. ➤





"THE DINING ROOM WAS ELEGANTLY EXTENDED, WHICH PROVIDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO INCORPORATE A SET OF NEW FRENCH DOORS AND SHUTTERS."









THE EXTENSION, ONCE A DATED, AWKWARD ALTERATION, IS NOW A MUTED AND ELEGANT CONSTRUCTION OF GLASS AND STEEL.

Terrace The new extension, which includes a raised terrace, is the epitome of smart contemporary design.
Bathroom The amethyst cave rock sculpture on the double-ended bathtub and gray riven slate flooring make for a cool, calm space.
Indoor pool The pool is a new addition and its placement has been designed elegantly to connect with the ground-floor terrace and maximize the view. ■

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TRAVEL

WHERE TO ESCAPE, EXPLORE, AND ENJOY

Located just a stone's throw away from the surf-ready Oaxacan coast, Hotel Escondido is a boho-chic getaway for adventurous travelers.



PRESS IMAGE COURTESY OF HOTEL ESCONDIDO

ECO-CHIC STAYS

Natural style

From luxury lodges to rustic retreats, these earth-friendly getaways around the world embrace innovative design and sustainable lifestyles in harmony with their environment.

Story by **JOANNA FRANCISCO**



PRESS IMAGES COURTESY OF EKIES ALL SENSES RESORT, EL NIDO RESORTS, PARK HYATT HADAHAA, AND TREEHOTEL (PETER LUNDSTROM).

TREEHOTEL
The ultimate tree house fantasy comes to life at this ultra-modern concept set in a dense Swedish forest. Located in the Harads district, just outside the city of Luleå, Treehotel is the brainchild of some of Scandinavia's leading architects, its four uniquely designed tree rooms recalling images of childhood fantasies filled with spaceships and castles in the clouds. The concept was developed as a way to provide travelers unique accommodations with a focus on sustainable design and energy conservation. *Rooms from US$560 per night; Edeforsväg 2 A, 960 24 Harads, Sweden (treehotel.se)*



PARK HYATT HADAHAA
During its construction, this lush tropical getaway took extra care in preserving its habitat by adhering to the planning and design standards of environmental management and advisory group EarthCheck. To this day, a resident marine biologist monitors all of the resort's eco-preservation efforts, which include a hydroponic garden and green cooling technology. Reveling in the cerulean beauty of the Maldivian coast, the resort, which has only 50 villas, offers discerning travelers all the worldly comforts they would ever need, whether it's plush bathrooms, your very own plunge pool, or a private deck perched above the crystal clear Indian Ocean. *Rooms from US$975 a night; North Huvadhoo, Gaafu Alifu Atoll, Republic of Maldives (maldives.hadahaa.park.hyatt.com)*



PANGULASIAN ISLAND
The newest addition to the El Nido family of luxury resorts can be found along a massive white sand beach set against a backdrop of lush, tropical foliage. The estate houses over 40 villas inspired by Filipino design and composed of mostly sustainable materials. The resort's restaurant is also dedicated to providing guests a wide assortment of sustainably sourced provisions made with local, organic produce. *Rooms from US$560 per night; El Nido, Palawan (elnidoresorts.com)*

EKIES ALL SENSES RESORT
The resort's architecture melts into the idyllic Mediterranean landscape with locally inspired structures composed of solid wood and Greek gray marble. The interiors are a playful mix of Greek tradition and sleek contemporary designs, with pieces by Ron Arad, Philippe Starck, and Achille Castiglioni adorning the rooms. Each of the resort's 64 rooms is unique in both color and motif, with unusual accents such as recycled lamps and geometric tiles creating an unconventional sense of comfort. The bedrooms are also finished in non-toxic paint, and feature all-natural Coco-Mat mattresses and Apivita toiletries. *Rooms from US$110 per night; Sithonia, Halkidiki, Vourvourou, Greece (ekies.gr)*











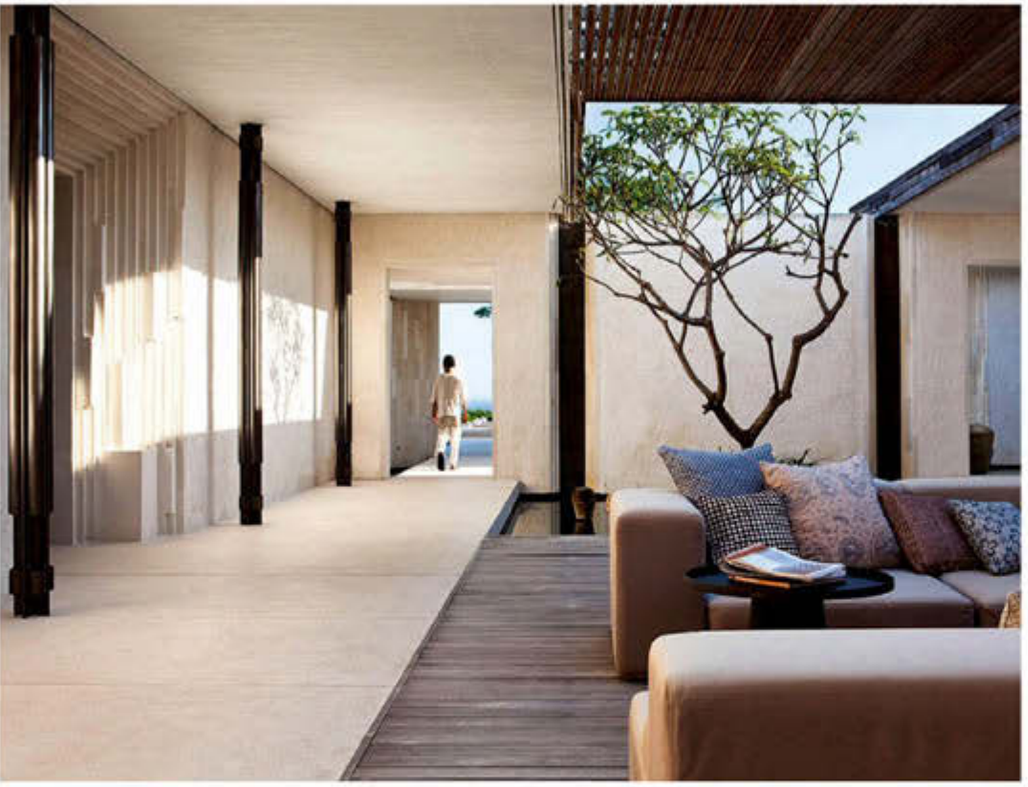
HOTEL ESCONDIDO
This unusual escape takes classically rustic Mexican design and tastefully blends it with a sparse contemporary sensibility. Founded by Grupo Habita and designed by Federico Rivera Rio, the beach resort features 16 thatched roof bungalows designed to match the wild, unwieldy Oaxacan coast. The interiors are a bold combination of vintage pieces and local boho-chic flourishes, such as colorful hammocks and geometric floor patterns. One can choose to take a stroll on the beach, ride a motorcycle on the sand, or surf the waves at the renowned Puerto Escondido. *Rooms from US$300 per night; Carretera Federal Salina Cruz - Santiago Pinotepa Nacional, Puerto Escondido, Oaxaca, Mexico (hotelescondido.com)*

SIX SENSES QING CHENG MOUNTAIN
Opening this May, the global resort-and-spa brand's first property in China is set to effortlessly meld into the majestic Qing Cheng Mountain range. Drawing on their credo for responsible luxury, Six Senses sourced all the building's materials locally whenever possible and designed the resort's villas and suites to reflect the region's architecture. Modern Chinese furnishings, taupe-toned sustainable timber, rattan accents, and serene central courtyards evoke an old-world elegance, a graceful homage to quiet village life in rural China. True to the resort's eco-centric ethos, the hotel's Farm2Fork restaurant highlights regional ingredients, as well as choice produce from the on-site garden. *6 Qing You Street, Qingcheng Mountain Town, Dujiangyan, Chengdu, Sichuan, China (sixsenses.com)*



PRESS IMAGES COURTESY OF CAFE L'AFFAIRE, FIX & FOGG, MARANUI CAFE, LOGAN BROWN, SIX BARREL SODA CO, THE LIBRARY, AND WELLINGTON CHOCOLATE FACTORY.

ALILA VILLAS ULUWATU
Take in the panoramic beauty of the Balinese coastline at this über-chic cliff seaside retreat. While the lobby showcases a stunning view of the 50-meter infinity pool and the Indian Ocean beyond, most visitors find themselves exploring the minimalist estate that makes ingenious use of locally sourced, sustainable or recycled building materials, and local plants from Bali's savanna ecosystem. Rain gardens and a wastewater management system help it conserve water. Complete the eco-tourism experience with culinary market trips and outings to community projects. *Rooms from US$900 per night; Jl Belimbing Sari, Banjar Tambiyak, Desa Pecatu, Bali, Indonesia (alilahotels.com/uluwatu)*



LONGITUDE 131
Take camping to a whole new level at Longitude 131's luxurious complex of 15 tents located right at the gateway to Uluru, Australia's almost mythic icon of earth and sand. Each tent is draped with a sloping white fabric roof. Inside, the tents are outfitted in crisp white linen, colonial dark wood furnishings, and a spacious bathroom. The camp's main draw, though, is the gorgeous view of the vast Australian outback. Guests can also choose to study the night sky with the resident astronomer—the lack of artificial light provides perfect conditions for stargazing. *Tents for two from US$870 per night; Uluru-Kata Tjuta, Yulara Drive, Yulara, Australia (longitude131.com.au)*







MORUKURU OCEAN HOUSE
Located within a massive expanse of natural beauty, this well-appointed four-bedroom coastal lodge was designed as if it were part of the terrain, its verdant roof garden an exact replica of the original foliage and topography of the land the estate sits upon. Floor-to-ceiling glass windows offer magnificent views of the ocean, as well as one of Africa's largest whale nurseries. The property is also fully solar-powered and relies mostly on firewood and recycled residual heat for cooking and heating. Travelers who long to be one with nature can relax along the pristine white beaches, go dune surfing, and discover the region's rich flora and fauna at the sprawling grounds of the De Hoop Nature Reserve. *Rooms from US$1,695 per night; Morukuru Family Offices, 90 Pretoria Avenue, Atholl 2196, Johannesburg, South Africa (morukuru.com)*

ADDRESS BOOK

WHERE TO BUY THE PRODUCTS FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE



Flora Filipina 2015

B

B&B Italia
Twenty-Four Seven McKinley, 24th Street corner 7th Avenue, McKinley Parkway, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City (focusglobalinc.com; bebitalia.com)

C

Cassina
Available at FURNitalia, 30th Street corner Rizal Drive, Crescent Park, Bonifacio Global City (819.1887)

Cedarhills Garden Center
57 Mother Ignacia Street, Quezon City (926.2707; facebook.com/cedarhillsgardencenter)

Constel Natures Garden by Contancio "Tansing" Basis
facebook.com/ConstelNaturesGarden (0919.818.8028, 0923.727.4501, 0919.538.4604)

Crate & Barrel
4/L Mega Fashion Hall, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City (crateandbarrel.com)

D

Dedon
Available at Living Innovations Corporation, G/F Fort Victoria, 5th Avenue corner 23rd Street, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City (734.3243, 828.8722; livinginnovations.ph; dedon.de)

G

Garden designers
Mando Cruz (0939.204.8395)
Tata Montilla (tatamontilla.com)
Architect Bimbo Vergara (0920.695.4773)

Green Spell Farm by Fred Salud
M. Salud Street, Noveleta, Cavite (0917.896.3733)

Green World Builders
268 El Grande Avenue, BF Homes International, Las Piñas City (572. 9012; greenworldbuilders.com.ph)

H

Hermés
G/F Greenbelt 3, Paseo de Roxas corner Legaspi Street, Ayala Center, Makati City (757.8910)

K

Kultura Filipino
3/F SM Aura Premier, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, and at SM malls nationwide (kulturafilipino.com)

Kim Seybert
Available at Blue Carreon Home, Shop L216 Century City Mall, Kalayaan Avenue, Makati City (556.7812; bluecarreonhome.com)

M

Moroso
Available at Casa Bella, G/F AIC Burgundy Empire Tower, ADB Avenue corner Garnet Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City (470.6250, 470.1089; sales@csbellahome.com); soon to open at G/F MDI Corporate Center, 10th Avenue corner 39th street, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City

R

Roche Bobois
2100 Don Chino Roces Extension, Makati City (519.8240)

S

Sustainably Made
Available at Rustan's Department Store, Ayala Center, Ayala Avenue, Makati City (813.3739; sustainablymade.checkout.ph)

T

Triconfort
Available at Casa Bella, G/F AIC Burgundy Empire Tower, ADB Avenue corner Garnet Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City (470.6250, 470.1089; sales@csbellahome.com)

Tom Dixon
3/F MOs Design, B2 Bonifacio High Street, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City (856.2748; mosdesign.com.ph)

Townes Inc.
916 Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City (844.5086, 844.1338; townes.com.ph)



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TotalGirl TOWN&COUNTRY YES! Yummy

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THE SHOWROOM

NEW PRODUCTS FROM THE PARTNERS OF ELLE DECORATION PHILIPPINES



MAIN FIXTURE

French designer Cedric Ragot collaborates with Roche Bobois in creating a line of decorative pieces and furniture for the brand's Spring/Summer 2015 collection. Pictured is the Radian, a ceramic pedestal table coated with hand applied glaze. The Radian comes in red, gray and green.

Roche Bobois is at 1120 Don Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City. Call (02) 519 8240.



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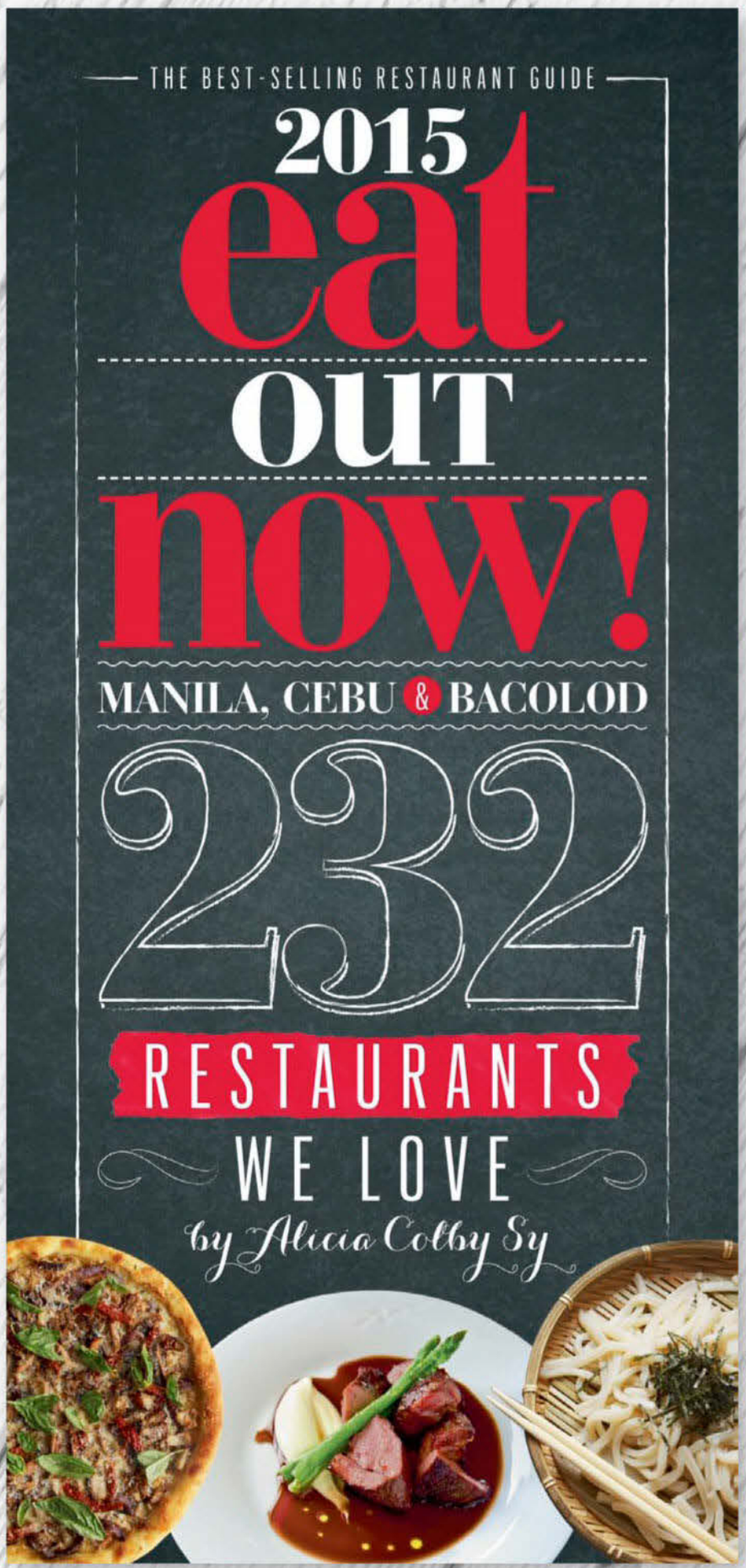
LAST LOOK

Salvaged art

Filmmaker Joanna Vasquez Arong gives dried up plants a second life as intriguing sculptural pieces. For greater impact, she groups the parched objects to create arid assemblages around her home.



PHOTOGRAPHY: PATRICK MARTIRES. TEXT: DEVI DE DEYRA.



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